MONDAY
November 27, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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Karnataka Government. Guarantee Government.

Department of Transport

Shakthi

FREE BUS Service for women across Karnataka

ACTUAL TICKET

As a homemaker, I used to spend close to Rs 1800 per month on bus fares. Today, my travel costs are zero and the savings help me with my daughter's education. Free bus travel under the Shakthi scheme of Karnataka government led by Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah,** is a boon for middle classes.

Zamrud
Homemaker

The farthest I had travelled till recently was my neighbouring district. Today, I can afford to explore nooks and corners of Karnataka, thanks to the free bus travel under the Shakthi scheme of the Karnataka government led by Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah.**

Mamatha C
Homemaker

Transgender community is under privileged and it will be greatly benefited by the Shakthi scheme of Karnataka government. I thank Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah** for including transgender community in the Shakthi scheme.

Priya
Transgender

I am studying while working as a part-time worker at a movie theatre to fund my education. The student pass allows me to travel only from residence to college and I used to spend a lot of money for my travel to work. With free bus travel offered by Shakthi scheme of Karnataka government led by Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah,** I am able to save Rs 2000 per month for my education.

Chandana
B Com Student
& part-time worker

62 Lakh women travel free on an average every single day

100 Crore

FREE TRIPS COMPLETED BY WOMEN IN 6 MONTHS, SAVING UP A WHOPPING RS. 2444 CRORES

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Shakthi
Free Travel With Purpose

Free bus travel is the new freedom of mobility for women of Karnataka achieved under the visionary leadership of **Sri Siddaramaiah**
Chief Minister of Karnataka

Gruha Jyothi
Upto 200 Units of Free Electricity to each home

Free electricity provided to more than 1.50 crore households.

Gruha Lakshmi
₹2000 per month female head of the family

Cash transfer to 1.0 crore accounts.

File photo of Karnataka Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah** issuing the first free ticket under Shakthi scheme to a woman in a KSRTC bus.

Transfer of Rs. 2444 crore to 3.92 crore beneficiaries.

Anna Bhagya
10kg Free Food Grains (per person / per month)

Expected to help 4.5 lakh youth.

Yuva Nidhi
₹3000 Per month for Graduates
₹1500 Per month for Diploma Holders

DELIVERED AS PROMISED...

More than 96% of the people in Karnataka benefit from one or the other guarantee schemes

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/

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DISCUSSING STRATEGIES

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NIJJAR'S KILLING

India 'absolutely' not involved, says envoy

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IMPOSING CURBS

Old censorship on a new medium

The engine of censorship has been overhauled for the digital age

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FACILE WIN

Jaiswal, Bishnoi shine as India takes 2-0 lead

SPORT » PAGE 15

SC has always acted as 'people's court': CJI on Constitution Day

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Sunday said it was the solemn duty of the current generation to keep afloat the idea of India powered by a Constitution based on the principles of individual liberty, equality, and fraternity.

"When we say today 'we honour the adoption of the Constitution', first and foremost, we honour the fact that the Constitution 'exists' and that the Constitution 'works'," the Chief Justice said in his address during the Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice's words are significant as the Constitution and the Supreme Court are entering the 75th year of their adoption and founding, respectively.

The Chief Justice said the common man should not fear approaching courts. The courts were an extension of constitutional governance. For the past seven decades, the Supreme Court had acted as a "people's court". Thousands of citizens had approached its door with the faith that they would get justice through this institution, the Chief Justice said.

Citizens, no matter who they were or where they came from, could simply write to the Chief Justice of India to set into motion the constitutional machinery of the Supreme Court to get justice. In this way, the Supreme Court of India was unique, he added.

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Murmu bats for creating all-India judicial service

NEW DELHI
President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday batted for the setting up of an all-India judicial service as a way to ensure equal representation of India's diversity in the judiciary.

» PAGE 8

On Day 15 at Silkyara, rescuers set a 100-hour vertical drilling target

Official says the target can be achieved if no hurdles come in the way; authorities worry over the forecast of snowfall and rainfall in Uttarkashi today; work on to extricate the auger machine used for horizontal drilling that is stuck amid pipes

Ishita Mishra
SILKYARA

With horizontal drilling to rescue 41 workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi stuck for the third consecutive day, rescuers began vertical drilling above the tunnel, completing nearly 19.5 metres of boring on Sunday. The teams have set a target of drilling through 86 metres of mountain vertically in 100 hours, if there are no unexpected hurdles.

Briefing presspersons as the rescue operation entered the 15th day, Mahmood Ahmed, Additional Secretary (Technical, Road and Transport), said there could be a need to change the head of the drilling machine after a point of time and arrangements for it were already in place.

"We should not give targets any more, but at the pace with which vertical drilling is going on, I can say we will complete it in 100 hours, if no hurdle comes our way," he added.

One of the rescuers told *The Hindu* that "the initial few metres will be easier to drill but it will be a challenge when the drilling machine hits the crust [outermost part] of the tunnel". If this process is completed smoothly, the workers will be taken out in buckets through the vertical hole being bored, he said.

The attention of the authorities shifted to vertical boring when plans to restart the horizontal drilling process yet again failed, with workers struggling to retrieve the broken parts of the U.S.-made auger machine, which is stuck amid the pipes since Friday night. When the machine is completely extricated, rescuers are likely to start manual horizontal drilling to reach the workers, who are trapped behind 10-12 metres of debris.

In another challenge for the rescue teams, the India Meteorological Department has predicted snowfall and rainfall in Uttarkashi district on Monday, which is located at an altitude of 3,500 metres above sea level. The weather will further complicate the operation for the rescuers who are already braving difficult conditions including hilly terrain.

The NDMA and SDRF officials say that arrangements had been made to tackle the situation as workers at the site are afraid that rainfall will hamper the work.

Fingers crossed: The earth-boring machine drilling a vertical hole into the Silkyara tunnel. AFP

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

Zero-waste initiative receives attention

MYSURU
Little did Varsha, an MTech graduate, expect her modest initiative in zero waste management of banana plants in Chamarajanagar district would fetch her widespread attention on Sunday. » Page 7

The curtain falls on city's first-ever Kambala

BENGALURU
Lakhs of people gathered at Palace Grounds on Sunday for the second and final day of Kambala, the slush track buffalo race. The audience included scores of political leaders and members of the film fraternity. » Page 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 7

CAA rules likely by March, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Rules of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be framed by March 2024, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra said on Sunday.

Addressing a gathering in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Mr. Mishra tried to allay fears of the Matua community over the delay in framing the rules, and said the Act passed by Parliament in December 2019 ensured that members of the community had become citizens.

"You will get the full rights of citizenship. Even in the absence of proper documents, no action can be initiated against you. This we have included in the Act," the Minister said. By the latest information he had, the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation in the Lok Sabha had fixed time till January 9, 2024 and the committee in the Rajya Sabha till March 30, 2024 for framing the CAA rules.

"We are hopeful that the rules of the CAA will be framed by then. In case there are issues, some more time may be required. The CAA has been implemented in the country. It is the promise and commitment of the Government of India to provide [you] citizenship," Mr. Mishra said. The Minister's remarks assume significance ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

CONTINUED ON
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Remembering 26/11 victims

In memorium: Police personnel pay tribute to the victims of the 26/11 terrorist attack on its 15th anniversary in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

Centre asks States to watch cases of respiratory illness

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry's advisory comes in the wake of a surge in respiratory illness in children in China

The Union Health Ministry on Sunday directed the State governments to closely monitor cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) in the wake of recent reports of a surge in respiratory illness in children in northern China.

The Ministry asked the district and State surveillance units of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project to keep a watch on the cases.

The States have also been directed to send nasal and throat swabs of patients with such conditions, particularly children and adolescents, to virus research and diagnostic laboratories for testing for respiratory pathogens.

In a letter, the Ministry advised the States to immediately review public health and hospital preparedness measures such as ensuring the availability of trained hands, hospital beds, drugs and vaccines for influenza, medical oxygen, antibiotics, personal protective equipment, testing kits and reagents, functionality of oxygen plants and ventilators, and infection control practices in health facilities.

"The Health Ministry has decided to review the preparedness measures against respiratory illnesses, as a matter of abundant caution. This is noted to be important in view of the ongoing influenza and winter season that results in an increase in respiratory illness cases. The government is closely monitoring the situation, and indicated there is no need for any alarm," said a senior Health Ministry official.

FLU BEHIND SURGE: CHINA
» PAGE 13

Tech community groups find free weekend space at corporate offices in city for meet-ups

Liffy Thomas
BENGALURU

The office of eGovernments Foundation in Koramangala follows a shape-shifting routine. On weekdays, it is business as usual, which has to do with urban governance. During weekends, it morphs into a conference room, the workstations and furniture shoved to the sidelines. It does the latter *pro bono* for tech community groups aligned with its goals.

These meet-ups benefit the host as much as the tech group.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One of the beneficiaries of eGovernments Foundation, the Bengaluru chapter of FOSS (Free and Open Source Software), has had two weekend meet-ups to its name at this address.

Generosity of this kind is getting more widespread than one might first assume. The FOSS has held meet-ups at the offices of Razorpay, MapleLabs, Dukaan, and Accel LaunchPad (all in Koramangala) as well.

Initially, start-ups in Koramangala and HSR Layout seemed to be driving this trend. With large multinational tech firms, some located in IT parks, also joining in, the trend has a more expansive surface area. A noticeable number of companies in Outer Ring Road, BTM Layout, and Indiranagar are into it.

"A Japanese company was setting up base in Bengaluru and they reached out to us to host a meet-up in their new office space," says Nayyan Mujadiya, one of the organisers of SwiftBengaluru. Swift is a programming language for developing apps for Apple devices.

Knowledge sharing in its essence, these meet-ups benefit the host as much as the tech group.

For tech enthusiasts, it is a platform to network, understand the latest buzz in the industry, learn and adopt from the best practices from other companies. For the host company, it is about picking up evolving trends and also adding social value its brand. And of course, it is also about putting oneself in a position to tap talent.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Peace talks on with insurgent group: Biren

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

N. Biren Singh

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Sunday said his government was holding talks with an Imphal Valley-based insurgent group, and a peace accord would be signed soon.

Mr. Singh said the talks were at an advanced stage, though he did not name the underground organisation. "We are advancing, and we are expecting to sign a peace accord with one big UG [underground organisation] very shortly," the Chief Minister said.

This was for the first time that there was an official confirmation about such talks being held by the government, since ethnic violence broke out in the State on May 3.

Earlier, sources had said that the government was holding talks with a faction of the proscribed United National Liberation Front (UNLF).

CONTINUED ON
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Indian doubles tennis is at its healthy best, and growing steadily

Before they rocketed to the top of the world in 1997, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi had given a hint of their prowess by winning four Challenger titles as a pair in 1996; in the current scenario, Indian players have underlined their progress by winning six Challenger titles in as many weeks on the trot in Europe

Kamesh Srinivasan

Indian doubles tennis has been at its healthy best this season. It is not just because Rohan Bopanna has been playing phenomenal tennis at 43, reaching Grand Slam finals, and returning to his career best rank of No. 3 in the world.

A bunch of Indian players are making news every week, reaching finals and winning titles, especially at the Challenger level.

Indian players have won a dozen Challenger doubles titles this season so far. Yuki Bhambri did one better by winning a Tour event doubles title as well, apart from three Challenger titles, to hint at a bright future in the big league.

Before they rocketed to the top of the world in 1997, winning multiple Tour titles, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi had given a hint of their prowess by winning four Challenger titles as a pair in 1996.

In the current scenario, the Indian players underlined their progress by winning six Challenger titles in six weeks on the trot in Europe.

Sriram Balaji won three of them, with Andre Begemann of Germany. Of course, they were the only doubles titles for Balaji this season, after he had made the ATP Tour final in Pune with Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, apart from a Challenger final with him.

In that spell of six titles, Niki Poonacha and Divij Sharan won one in Alicante, Spain. Rithvik Bollipalli and Arjun Kadhe won the big Challenger, €145,000 event in Olbia, Italy. Bhambri won one with Julian Cash in Brest, France. Bhambri had won two Challenger titles earlier with Saketh Myneni who took a break from the circuit, after the Asian Games silver medal with Ramkumar Ramanathan, to nurse his new born baby.

Of course, Indian players have been making a lot of finals as well, which overall has helped eight of them to be in the top-110 of world rank.

Bopanna (3), Bhambri (62), Sriram Balaji (73), Vijay Sundar Prashanth (83), Anirudh Chandrasekar (87), Nedunchezhiyan (97), Myneni (98), Arjun Kadhe (110) are all capable of climbing further next season.

The superb run is not a surprise as there is a concerted effort, with considerable financial support, to have coaches and physiotherapists travel to tournaments and help the players to be at their competitive best, week after week.

Coach M. Balachandran is a key player in the scheme. It was a very rewarding experience for him when he found himself as part of the champion team for four weeks in a row in Europe.

Balu, as he is affectionately called in the circuit, looked to have found the golden touch, as he guided players to titles week after week.

"Fortunately, things are working out well with the players, and they are getting results. This spell of titles is going to benefit the doubles program and make an impact on other players, and probably sponsors too," said Balu, as he put things in perspective.

Andre Begemann, M. Balachandran and Sriram Balaji. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It was a challenge for Balu as a coach to fine tune the players, considering the variables.

"Four weeks of tournaments were on different surface, indoor, outdoor. Bratislava was indoor hard court, Olbia was outdoor court, Brest was indoor hardboard and Ismaning was indoor carpet. Three different balls were used in these four weeks. Combination of all this needs players to make necessary adjustments in their game, with strategy, also while serving, returning etc," said Balu as he gave a hint of the complexity of competing against high quality players in different conditions.

Interestingly, three of the titles were won by pairs, playing together for the first time – Sriram-Begemann, Khade-Bollipalli, Bhambri-Julian Cash.

"Fourth week was relatively easier, as I was familiar with Bala and Andre. The only challenge was they had not played the previous week, and had a first round loss in Olbia. So, one 'not so good' match in two weeks to start on carpet," said Balu.

A seasoned coach, revered by Bopanna who has known him for more than 25 years, Balu was happy to come up with the right advice.

"As a coach, I had to find solutions which can help the particular player in each of these conditions, and getting the partners on the same page. My inputs were well received. Players can miss something which could look obvious from outside. When I pick something, I share it with the players. It makes my job satisfying. It is even more enjoyable when they win tournaments. They can't win all the time. Luckily, I had four weeks in a row when I could take a picture with the players holding winners trophy," said Balu.

The coach had started with the pre-season camp in Dubai. He was with six players for three Challengers in India. In March, Balu did three tournaments in Europe, followed by five weeks in June-July for the grass season.

The last spell was for five weeks. After the four titles in four weeks, Balu had to endure the early exit of Bhambri in the Metz ATP event.

"Our players are still playing in the circuit. I hope all of them can finish on a high and set themselves well for next year. If Balaji and Yuki can improve on their current rank, they can find partners with high ranking for the ATP events in January and Australian Open," said Balu.

There will be a pre-season camp, to prepare the doubles players for 2024.

"We can work on specifics for each player so that they start the next year stronger," felt Balu.

Success breeds success. Balu observed that there was a strong sense of self-belief in the players that they can step it up and compete in the Grand Slams.

"The players believe that they can win matches at a higher level. The players in the program are keen to improve their game and hungry for inputs to work on. They have the commitment and work ethic to excel. That is a very healthy trend as it will influence the next crop coming up. At the top, we have Rohan as a great example for all our players, men, women and juniors," observed Balu.

The doubles dream project is a classic proof that, once you back up an idea with the right people and resources, success takes care of itself.

"I hope similar programs will come up for singles players, starting with juniors," Balu said.

For the juniors to excel, they need a strong foundation.

"Coaches need to work from beginner level and look to give a good foundation for them to climb to a good level. A promising junior has a very long way to get to the professional level. It is important to develop the player in the right way. We do find many players not good enough to do well in men's or women's circuit owing to lack of proper fundamentals instilled in them at a young age," Balu expressed his concern.

For the dozen Indian players who are in the top-200 of world doubles at the moment, good coaches have tuned their game over the years, helping them build on the strong foundation and aim for the sky!

THE GIST

- A bunch of Indian players are making news every week, reaching finals and winning titles, especially at the Challenger level
- Sriram Balaji won three of them, with Andre Begemann of Germany. Of course, they were the only doubles titles for Balaji this season
- For the dozen Indian players who are in the top-200 of world doubles at the moment, good coaches have tuned their game over the years

Anirudh Chandrasekar, Vijay Sundar Prashanth.

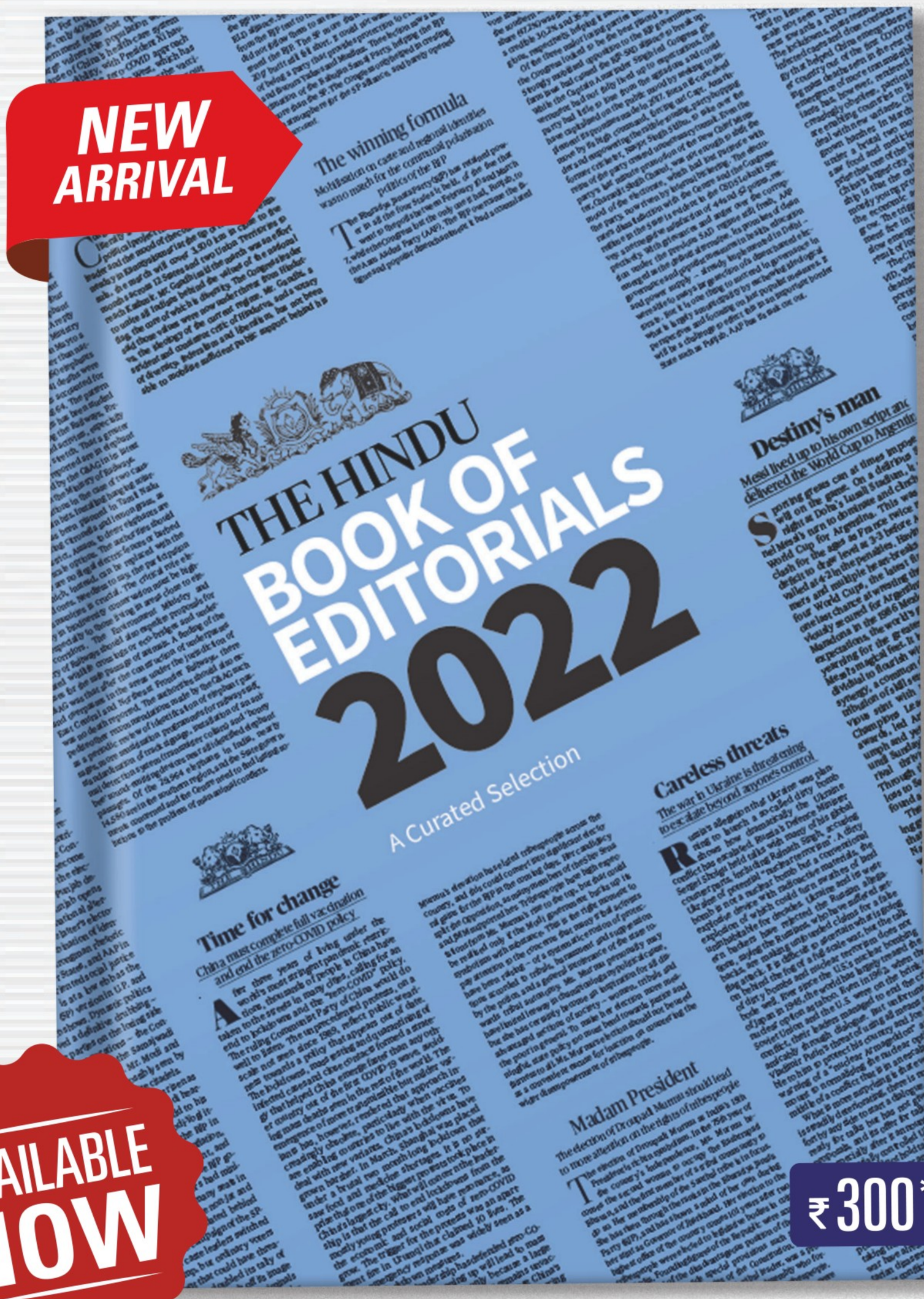
Lloyd Harris, Yuki Bhambri.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Book of Editorials 2022

captures what made news in the year that just passed, with a selection of editorials that were published in the editorial pages of India's national newspaper.



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Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, NOV. 27		
RISE	06:23	SET 17:51
RISE	17:48	SET 06:07
TUESDAY, NOV. 28		
RISE	06:24	SET 17:51
RISE	18:41	SET 07:07
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29		
RISE	06:25	SET 17:51
RISE	19:37	SET 08:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	30	23
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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THE HINDU
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'Maintenance of 76.69% of feeders taken up in a year'

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission mandates the safety or technical audit of 11 kV feeders to be undertaken by distribution licensees at least once a year

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

11 kV Feeder Maintenance Abhiyaana progress

Feeders with complete UG cable	Feeders with UG cable and OH lines	Feeders with OH lines	Total feeders	% of progress with respect to total feeders	Actual % of progress with respect to OH line only	% of progress excluding recently added feeders (in the last 1 year)
1,541	296	4,380	6,217	76.69	109	97.89

Source: Bescom

Under fire after the recent deaths of a mother and her baby owing to electrocution, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) said that in the last year, since November 2022, it has conducted the maintenance of 4,768 11 kV feeders, under its Feeder Maintenance Abhiyaana (FMA), out of the total 6,217 feeders present in its jurisdiction. This amounts to the conducting of maintenance of 76.69% of feeders.

If the feeders that have been added to the network in the last one year are excluded, then Bescom claims that maintenance work on around 97% of the feeders have been conducted.

After the recent electrocution of 23-year-old Soundarya and her nine-month-old daughter near Hope Farm from a live wire that had snapped, the public has been demanding an audit of the electrical infrastructure in the city.

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) also mandates the safety or technical audit of 11 kV feeders, including distribution transformer centres (DTC), to be undertaken by distribution licensees at least once every year.

The FMA, which was conducted in two phases between November and December 2022 and the extended phase which was carried out from June 15, to November 15 this year, included trimming of HT lines, replacement or repair of slanted and deteriorated poles, rectification of DTCs, and repair of loose spans.

After the recent electrocution of 23-year-old Soundarya near Hope Farm, the public has been demanding an audit of the electrical infrastructure in the city. FILE PHOTO

Out of the 19,177 slanted HT poles that have been identified by Bescom during the campaign, 17,506 have been fixed so far, while 1,149 deteriorated HT poles have been fixed out of the 2,963 that were identified. Similarly, out of 10,930 slanted LT poles, 10,084 have been fixed and out of 3,594 deteriorated LT poles, 3,163 have been fixed, the data showed.

The officials also said that 58,004 DTCs out of the 62,720 which were inspected have been rectified.

According to Bescom officials, the maintenance campaign also includes the audit mandated by the KERC.

"This (maintenance) is a continuous process as different issues crop up every three to six months in different feeders. We are undertaking maintenance processes rigorously to avoid any unforeseen accidents. The maintenance and attending of all the remaining components will be taken up as a priority and completed soon," said Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bescom.

The Energy Department also issued a circular to Escoms and transmission corporations to take steps to avoid electrocution accidents as the preliminary investigation has pointed out that the negligence of safety protocols caused the accident at Hope Farm.

With the overhead (OH) line snapping and causing the electrocution in Soundarya's case, many citizens also raised questions about the status of Bescom's long-time project of conversion of OH lines into underground (UG) lines.

Bescom data revealed that out of the 6,217 11 kV feeders, only 1,541 have completed UG lines while 296 have both OH and UG lines.

However, a majority of 4,380 feeders still only have OH lines in the Bescom region.

Experts said that the reports by Bescom should be verified by a third party. "There is no way that they have carried out maintenance on as many feeders as they have claimed. KERC should call for a third party to audit and verify the records of change and replacement maintained by Bescom," said M.G. Prabhakar, a former member of the advisory committee, KERC.

Two fined for begging inside metro trains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In two recent incidents, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) fined two people for begging inside Namma Metro trains.

A woman was charged under the provisions of Section 59 of the Metro Act for begging within a metro train, causing inconvenience to fellow passengers. As a consequence, she was required to remit a fine of ₹500 and provide a written apology.

A official said, "She entered the train at Benniganahalli station at approximately 10.30 a.m., traveling towards Baiyappanahalli with a donation box for collecting cash. She had a QR code to facilitate online payments. A security officer noticed her soliciting donations from passengers.

Upon reaching Baiyappanahalli station, she was asked to get out of the train and brought to the control room by security officials, where a case was registered against her."

In another incident last week, authorities found a 20-year-old man with speech and hearing impairments begging on a train at Yeshwanthpur metro station.

According to officials, he carried a laminated sheet which said, "I am deaf and dumb" in Kannada and English, and he was found roaming in each coach, soliciting alms. Security personnel imposed a ₹500 fine on him as well.

A fellow passenger, who observed the man soliciting alms during his journey, alerted a metro staff at the station.

Campaign to encourage cycling to metro stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Personal2PublicViaCycle," a campaign aimed at showing people the bicycle parking facilities at Namma Metro stations and encouraging people to embrace cycling for their first and last-mile connectivity to the metro was launched by the Council for Active Mobility (CFAM) , in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI), BPAC, and Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF), on Sunday at Yelachenahalli metro station.

In the city, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) has deployed 200 bicycle stands in nine metro stations and 11 BMTC TTMCs to enable first and last-mile connectivity to public transport.

"The first of the many such events witnessed enthusiastic participation from residents of South Bengaluru. The initiative, supported by the Sustainable Mobility Network (SMN) map project, focused on fostering behavioural changes and raising awareness about the benefits of active mobility, specifically walking and cycling, as viable alternatives to motorised transport," a release stated.

Sathya Sankaran, Bicycle Mayor of Bengaluru and founder of CFAM, said, "This effort is to popularise the facilities being provisioned by the authorities, and enable people to discover safe routes to reach the stations''

Srinivas Alavilli, Personal2Public Fellow, WRI India, said, "One of the biggest hurdles for switching to public transport is last-mile access. The cycle is a viable option for Bengaluru blessed with pleasant weather and canopy. We must strive to make cycling safer and convenient to all age groups, particularly to daily commuters that are currently driving cars to work."

Two arrested for stealing traffic signal batteries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Grounds police on Sunday arrested two people and recovered 80 batteries worth ₹5 lakh, which were stolen from traffic signals in and around the city.

Based on a theft complaint, the High Grounds police tracked down the accused, identified as Saif Pasha and Salman Khan from Banashankari.

According to the police, the accused would move on bikes to identify the batteries and steal them.

Official arrested for accepting bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday arrested an administrative officer of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bengaluru, under the Prevention of Corruption Act for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹50,000 for an official favour.

A case was registered on a complaint against Nadeem A. Siddiqui on the charge of demanding ₹1.1 lakh from the complainant for clearing bills.

The CBI caught the accused red-handed while allegedly accepting a part of the bribe from the complainant.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused which led to the recovery of ₹2 lakh, sources said.

The accused was produced before the Special Judge for CBI Cases, Bengaluru, and remanded in judicial custody.+

Running for glory: A rider racing with his pair of buffaloes on the final day of Bengaluru Kambala at Palace Grounds on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The sun sets on city's first-ever Kambala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The crowd at the event on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Lakhs of people gathered at Palace Grounds on Sunday for the second and final day of Kambala, the slush track buffalo race organised by the Kambala Committee of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasaragod (Kerala) districts and the Bengaluru Kambala Committee (BKC).

The audience included scores of political leaders and members of the film fraternity, such as Rakshith Shetty, Upendra, Pooja Hegde, and Sanjjana.

The pair of buffaloes used in the popular Kannada movie *Kantaara* won gold medals in one of the events.

Although the public experienced some logistical issues on the first day, the second day was said to be smoother. One of the organisers claimed that the crowd on the second day was almost double that of the first day. The spectators said that this was not an issue as there were large screens broadcasting the events.

For many in the audience, this was the first chance to experience this cultural phenomenon. "Even though I am from South Canara, I had never watched Kambala as I live in Bengaluru. It made me very happy to see the cultural event so close to home in the city. I had read so much about it previously and it was an excellent experience to watch it," said Suma Venkatesh, a resident of Sanjaynagar. She added that the food stalls at the event served authentic and tasty food while the exhibition was also informative.

While some visitors complained of traffic snarls on Ballari Road, the Bengaluru Traffic Police said that there were no traffic jams on Sunday owing to the event.

This is the first time the coastal sport of Kambala was organised in Bengaluru and the event saw political leaders from both the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP coming together.

Man booked on cheating charge after masking number plate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused had pasted a sticker on the registration number plate at the back to hide a few numbers

The Jeevan Bima Nagar traffic police have booked a 22-year-old private firm employee on the charge of cheating for plying his scooter by masking his registration number plates to hoodwink enforcement cameras.

The accused, Channabasava, a resident of New Thippasandra, had pasted a sticker on the registration number plate at the back to hide a few numbers and was moving around to avoid fines through enforcement cameras.

Based on a complaint filed by a member of the public, the traffic police tracked down the accused and booked him for cheating and seized his bike.

The case was further referred to the jurisdictional Byappanahalli police for further investigation.

The traffic police have launched a drive against motorists for masking registration plates and are booking cases against them.

From Page One

Tech community groups find free weekend space

A few companies show a keenness towards hosting tech groups that have to do with domains like "Container", "DevOps", "SwiftUI", and artificial intelligence.

Vaibhav Chaudhary, a core member of the Java Users Meetup Group, says companies like Google and Microsoft leave their doors, and sometimes their fridges, open to this idea. "For one of our meet-ups, we had a well-known speaker from Texas University. We knew the footfall would be high and Infosys allowed us to have its auditorium for it," says Mr. Chaudhary.

A majority of the hosts pamper tech groups with sumptuous food and mementoes. While tea and coffee make the basics, sandwiches and pizza are delectable add-ons.

Going by Mr. Chaudhary's reading, these tech groups have these meet-ups on their own terms. "We are particular that the host does not use the opportunity to market any products. They however are free to talk on technical topics that will benefit the participants," he sai.

Despite the presence of many tech companies, finding a good and free venue is not easy. Strategic location and good acoustics are among the key factors considered.

Nayyan, a co-organiser for two other meet-up groups, says Indiranagar is one of their favourite locality for such weekend meet-ups.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri Chinnappa, B,** S/o Banila Akkalappa, R/at no 35/2, 1st cross, Durgamba Lay-out, Kattigenahalli, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk and Mrs. K. Roopa, D/o Krishanappa C, R/ at No 222, Chikkajala village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru 562157 have negotiated to purchase the schedule property from its owner Sri **M.N. Sriharsha** S/o V NarayanaSwamy (Hereinafter called Property Owner) and **Sri M. V. Narayanaraju** S/o late Nasaraju, R/at no 128, 7th Main road, 7th "A" Cross, HMT Layout, RT Nagara, Bengaluru -560032 and **Sri Kiran Kumar,** R/at No.179, 6th C Main Road, HMT Layout, R T Nagara, Bengaluru -560032 (Hereinafter called Agreement holders) and for valuable consideration. Any person/s claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the schedule property is called upon to lodge such claim with the undersigned with supporting documents within Ten days from the date of this publication. In the event no claim/s is received within the stipulated time, it shall be law full for my client to presume that there are no valid claim/s adverse to afore said seller's right, title and interest in the schedule property and proceed with the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

Item No 1: All that pieces and parcel of the Immovable property bearing **site no 1** measuring to an extent of east to west 97.2+91/2 feet, and North to South 63+61/2 feet, all measuring 5865 sq feet, lay-out formed in land bearing Sy. No 89/P29 measuring to an extent of 2 acre 30 guntas out of 3-00 Acres and bounded on the **East By: Road, West By: Site No 50, North By: Road, south by: site no 2.**

Item No 2: All that pieces and parcel of the Immovable property bearing **site no 50** measuring to an extent of east to west 50+50.4/2 feet, and North to South 107+97.2/2 feet, all measuring 5125 sq feet, lay-out formed in land bearing Sy. No 89/P29 measuring to an extent of 2 acre 30 guntas out of 3-00 Acres and bounded on the **East By: Site No 1, West By : 30 Feet Road, North By: Road, South By: Site No 49.**

Both properties are situated at **Manchappana Hosahalli village, (M Hosahalli) Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk,** presently **Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.**

V. Srinivasa , Advocate,
Office at No 1461, Ground floor,
Behind post office, Nehrunagara,
B B Road, Yelahanka,
Bengaluru-560064
Ph: 98865 42761 / 96113 12761
Place : Yelahanka Date : 26-11-2023

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
Tender Notice No: 08-S&T/MYS/2023
Dated : 21-11-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract per Data logger of Efftronics make for Three years over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 1,88,10,024/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 13-12-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer
PUB/516/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-8)
Ex No.2370/2022

BETWEEN: M/s. H.M. Estates and Property presently known as **M/s. H.M. Infratech Pvt. Ltd.,** A Joint stock company Registered under the companies Act, 1956 Represented by its Directors, **1. Mr. H.J. Siwani aged about 62 years,** S/o. Late. J.K. Siwani **2. Mr. M.J. Siwani** aged about 60 years, S/o. Late. J.K. Siwani, Located at "H.M. Geneva House", No.14, Cunningham Road, Bangalore - 560 052. **...DECREE HOLDER**

AND: 1. Mr. J. Doddabasappa and 2. Mr. Abdul Sattar ... JUDGMENT DEBTORS.

CAUSE NOTICE TO JUDGEMENT DEBTORS NO.1 AND 2 MENTIONED HEREUNDER BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

1. Mr. J. Doddabasappa, aged about 39 years, S/o. Hosakerappa, Residing at No.7/6, 1st Main, 7th Cross, K.Govindarajanagar, Bengaluru-560040.

2. Mr.Abdul Sattar, aged about 42 years, S/o. late Abdul Subhan, No.55, Robertson Road, Frazer town, Bengaluru-560 005.

Also at: No.17, 1st Floor, Coles Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560 005.

WHEREAS, the Decree Holder - M/s. H.M. Estates and Property presently known as M/s. H.M. Infratech Pvt. Ltd. has instituted execution proceedings in Ex.No.2370/2022 before the Hon'ble Court against the above mentioned Judgement Debtors No.1 and 2 to execute the decree passed in O.S.No.8753/2006 - wherein the Hon'ble Court has granted the relief of specific performance in respect of the Schedule Property and had ordered the Decree Holder to deposit balance sale consideration of Rs.1,91,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety-One Lakhs Fifty Thousand only) within 15 days from the date of the decree i.e., 15.07.2022. The Court had also ordered the above mentioned Judgement Debtors No.1 and 2 to execute a registered sale deed in favour of the Decree Holder in respect of the Schedule Property within 45 days from the date of deposit of balance sale consideration. The Court has also ordered that, if the above mentioned Judgement Debtors fail to execute the registered Sale Deed within the stipulated time, the Decree Holder is at liberty to get the Sale Deed executed in its favour through the process of the Court. The Court has also ordered costs of Rs.3,66,609/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Sixty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Nine Only) in favour of the Decree Holder. The Decree Holder has as per the decree, deposited the balance sale consideration before the Court within 15 days from the date of the decree. The above mentioned Judgement Debtors No.1 and 2 i.e., the both of you are hereby called upon to appear in the Court Of The XI Additional City Civil And Sessions Judge At Bengaluru (CCH-08) in person or by a pleader on the **20-01-2024** at 11.00.a.m., and show cause as to why the decree dated 15.07.2022 passed in O.S.No.8752/2006 should not be executed in terms of the decree against yourselves failing which the execution proceedings will be conducted ex-parte in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the House Property bearing Municipal No.116 (old No.49), at Coles Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore, upon the site measuring East to West: 82 feet; and North to South: 120 feet; are 9840 Square Feet., which is bounded as follows: **East by:** Site bearing No.115, **West by:** Site bearing No.117, **North by:** Passage; and **South by:** Private Property

Given under my hand and seal of the court, on 17th Day of November 2023.

By the order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Decree Holder
ABHINAV. R
Kumar and Kumar, Advocates
F-113, Central Chambers, 2nd Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore 560 009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Sri. C. VIJAY** S/o Chowdappa, Resident of BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore, has negotiated to purchase the schedule property and in this regard entered into Agreement of Sale with **Smt. SUSHEELA MOORTHY W/o Late Dr. R V N Moorthy,** R/at No:28, 'Matru Nilaya', 8th Cross, N R Colony, Bengaluru-560019 who claims to be the absolute owner in possession of the property mentioned in the schedule.

If any other person/s having any manner of legal right, title, claim, interest or demand or charge over the schedule property, they are hereby called upon to file objection/s with the undersigned, along with substantial documents upon which they are relying, within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, my client will be proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the above said person/owner, no one else has any manner of claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property. Any claims after laps of 7 days will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing **Municipal No:28 (earlier Site No.127,** later 127/134 and later 134/185), situated at 8th Cross, **Narasimharaja Colony** (known as N R Colony), comes within the limits of BBMP, Bengaluru, Ward No.154-Basavanagudi, PID No.51-28-28, measuring E-West 40 ft and N-S 60 ft., in total measuring 2400 Square feet, consisting of a DUPLEX HOUSE Building thereon in Ground and First Floor of 2400 Sq.ft with all civic amenities, constructed around 6-7 decades ago and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing Old No.128, West by : Property bearing Old No.126, North by : Property bearing Old No.122, South by : Road.

G.N. Anil and **T.V. Devaraja, Advocates**
No.114, 1st Flr, Gandhibazar Circle,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004.
Mob: No. 9448883228
E-mail: aniladvocate8534@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-Tender Notice No. BE-29-2023-24-OT-23,24,25
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

OT No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
23	Provision of solar pumps over Bengaluru Division in Stations identified by NGT and electrical arrangement for proposed provision of coach watering facilities at Kengeri Station.	Rs. 82,38,408/-
24	Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 6 major Stations in Bengaluru Division (Bengaluru, Whitefield, Kengeri, Yesvantpur, Yelahanka and Bangarapet) & Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 15 minor Stations in Bengaluru Division (Nelamangala, Thondebhavi, Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Rangepalli, Malur, Somanayakkanapatti, Shravanabelagola, Yediyuru, Bidadi, Chikballapur, Srinivasapur, Kolar, Dodbele, Chikkabanavara & Mulanur) - Electrical works.	Rs. 89,20,266/-
25	Replacement of over aged interlocking of Kelamangalam, Periyanagathunai, Rayakkottai, Marandahalli, Palakkodu, Toppur and Karuvalli Stations with E.I - Electrical Arrangements and Left over works between Hindupur - Penukonda Stations in Yelahanka - Penukonda doubling project - Electrical works.	Rs. 79,60,480/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 19-12-2023 for OT. No. 23 & 22-12-2023 for OT. No. 24 & 25
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/514/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
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Plants warn each other of danger, and now we can watch them

For the first time, scientists were able to visualise plants sensing compounds released by other plants in danger

Siddhant Pusdekar

If you've enjoyed the smell of fresh cut grass, you may have unwittingly eavesdropped on a conversation between plants.

The smell is caused by a group of compounds called green leaf volatiles (GLVs) that a plant releases into the air when it is injured. Although it can be a very pleasant smell to humans, to other plants it may be a warning letting them know that danger is near.

Scientists have known for some time that plants can eavesdrop on damage to other plants nearby.

Doing so can benefit a plant, which can take steps to defend itself. Scientists are considering harnessing this process to fight agricultural pests without having to use pesticides – although exactly how plants detect danger and protect themselves remains unknown.

A representative photo of a person cutting one blade of grass using a scissor. BRUNO KELZER/UNSPLASH

A danger-signalling relay

Now, Masatsugu Toyota, a professor at Saitama University with a penchant for making microscopes, has found a way to 'watch' plants responding to these warning signals.

The new study, published in *Nature Communications* on October 17, could help unlock long-standing questions in the field of plant defence and pave the way to protect crops without pesticides.

Abdul Rashid War, a scientist working on crop health at NatCo Pharma, explained plants defence mechanisms, involving a chain of molecular reactions.

The reactions are triggered when a plant is damaged, he said, and GLVs are released as by-products. (By mounting a defence response, plants can make themselves less palatable or even indigestible to the insect attackers.)

The molecular cascade is mediated by calcium, a common mediator of chemical and electrical signals found throughout biology.

When an insect takes a bite of a plant leaf, calcium ions flood the leaves in the cells. Dr. Toyota inserted a gene into the mustard plant (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), causing the plants' cells to glow whenever they were flooded with calcium.

When he placed the mutant plant under a special microscope rigged to detect fluorescent signals, he saw it light up in response to being touched, cut with a scissor or eaten by a caterpillar.

So if Dr. Toyota's mutant mustard could eavesdrop on damage being done to another plant, it should also light up in response to GLVs.

A 'classic' marker for defence

To test this, his student Yuri Aratani set up a sensitive experiment. She pumped air laden with GLVs on the mutant mustard plant and watched it light up under the microscope. "This is the first time for human beings to visualise [plants sensing] the volatile components released from the damage to other plants," Dr. Toyota said.

Dr. Aratani's painstaking experiments also revealed more about how plants detect volatile compounds. Of all the green leaf volatiles she tested, she found that mustard leaves lit up when exposed to just two of them: E-2-HAL and Z-3-HAL. She found that particular cells in the leaf, called guard cells and mesophylls, had the most calcium in response to GLVs.

Edward Farmer, a professor at the University of Lausanne, said he's excited about the study because, compared to how much we know about animal senses, "we really don't have the same level of knowledge at the moment about how plants perceive volatiles.

This tells us something about the cells that are responding to the volatiles."

One check did remain: The plant responded to the GLVs, but did it translate that to danger?

After observing the calcium responses, Dr. Aratani also found that plants exposed to grassy smells expressed their *Jaz-7* and *OPR-3* genes more.

Simon Gilroy, a plant biology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a former collaborator of Toyota's, called them "classic gene-level markers for defence". He wasn't part of this study.

> Scientists have known for some time that plants can eavesdrop on damage to other plants nearby.

What the findings mean

The presence of the genes in the mutant mustard after being exposed to GLVs could mean they perceived the compounds as a danger signal and began taking measures to protect themselves. "Everything is pointing in that direction," Dr. Gilroy said, but he doesn't think these results definitively show that plants perceive GLVs to be specific danger signals.Instead, the findings hint at mechanisms by which plants detect and perceive GLVs.

Dr. Toyota said his research could spur the use of GLVs in pest-control. GLVs diffused over crops could, he said, activate plants' defences.

Other methods of using a plant's internal defence responses have already been tested.

Drs. Farmer and Gilroy said jasmonic acid, a compound that gives jasmine tea its characteristic smell, also activates plants' defences and effectively repels insect pests – but may also cause plants to put all their energy into defending themselves and too little in making the fruits and vegetables we care about.

'The edges of a big network'

In his past work with International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics, Dr. War studied how groundnut plants defended themselves against bollworm pests.

He said GLVs activate internal plant-defence responses and "some of these volatiles repel the insects and some attract" predators of the pests.

He added that GLVs could help mitigate pest damage to crops but that more work was required to understand how specific compounds induced defences against specific pests. Dr. Farmer said he would like to consider more evidence before being convinced that volatile signalling between plants is important in a more natural setting.

Such studies are very challenging, he added, because the compounds get diluted in the air.

Dr. Toyota himself has set his sights on how plants "smell" GLVs.

In the final analysis, Dr. Gilroy was optimistic about the sort of questions we could pursue now that we can watch calcium signals in plants.

Plants lack brains but obtain information about the world and use it in meaningful ways just like we do.

"We're chipping away", he said, "at the edges of a big network" of plant sensing.

(Siddhant Pusdekar is a science writer and PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota. His research explores insect behaviour and nature communication. He is working with the Biological Purpose Project to produce The Purpose Podcast, which explores the intersection of biology and philosophy.)

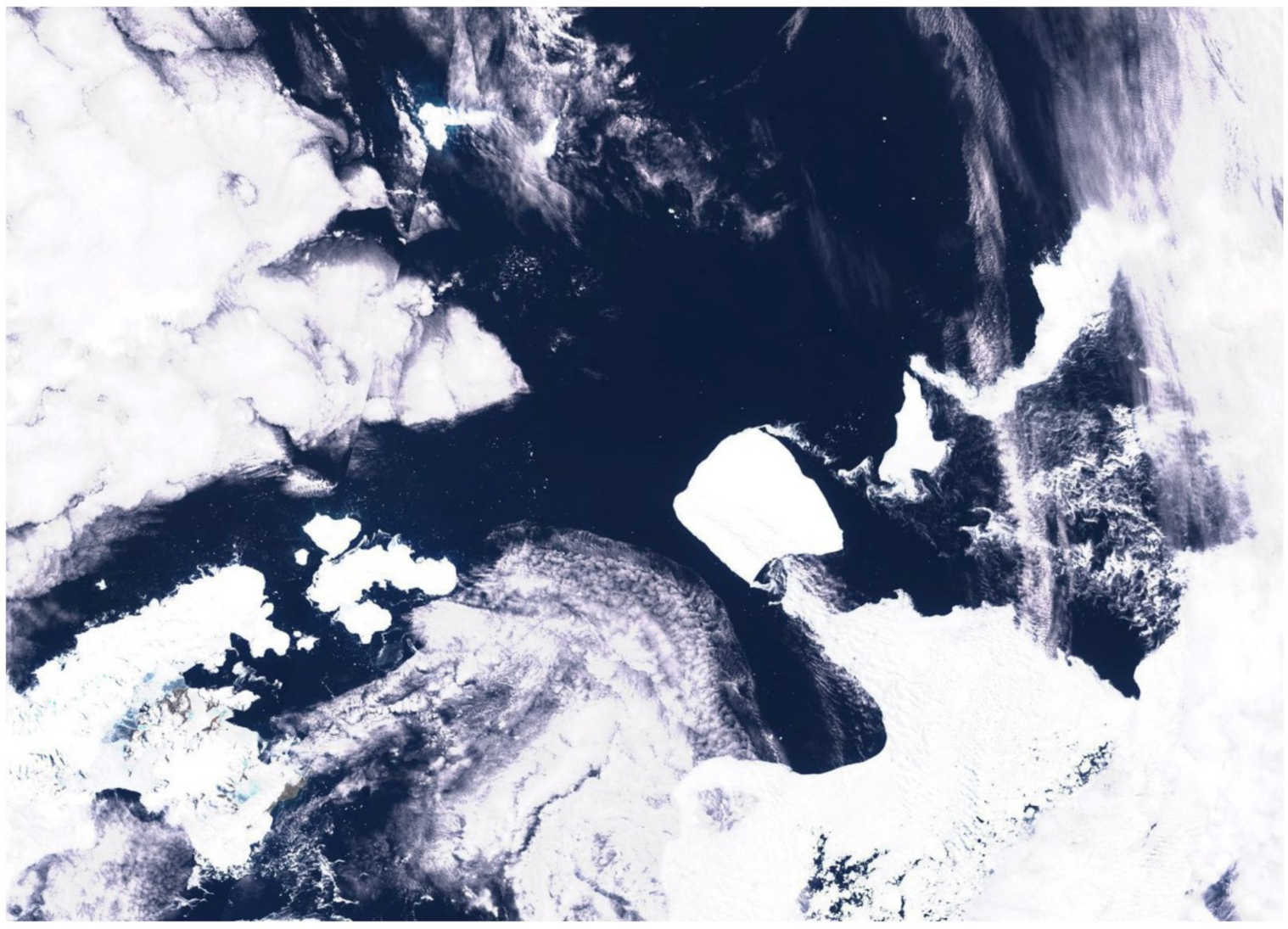
THE GIST

The study in *Nature Communications* on October 17, could help unlock long-standing questions in the field of plant defence and pave the way to protect crops without pesticides

The defence mechanism releases GLVs when attacked or damaged. Using this defence response, plants can make themselves less palatable or even indigestible to the insect attackers.They could also attract predators of the pests

Plants lack brains but obtain information about the world and use it in meaningful ways just like we do

BIG SHOT



A satellite image of the world's largest iceberg, named A23a, seen in Antarctica, November 15. A23a, which weighs a trillion metric tonnes and is three-times larger than New York City, is on the move for the first time in more than three decades, driven by strong winds and currents. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Piezoelectricity: Why quartz ticks

Arkatapa Basu

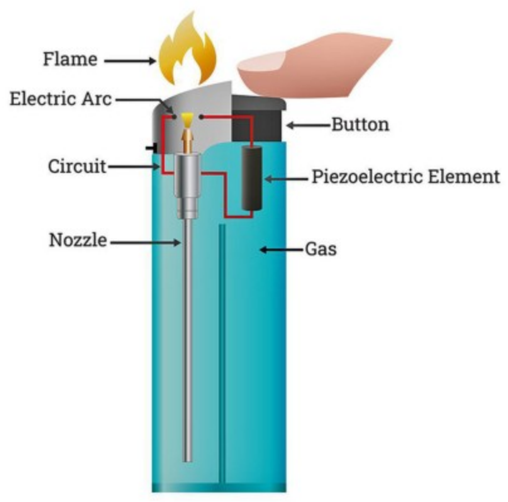
Ever looked inside a stove lighter and wondered where the spark comes from? The spark is created by piezoelectricity.

Piezoelectricity is a remarkable phenomenon whereby some materials – including quartz, ceramics such as lead zirconate titanate (PZT), and even certain biological substances like bone and the tendons – can generate an electric charge in response to mechanical stress. This property is the result of their unusual crystal structures. Usually, the charges on atoms in the molecules that make them up are symmetric on two sides of an axis. When some stress is applied, the molecule becomes distorted and the asymmetry of charges gives rise to a small electric current.

The term "piezoelectric" itself originates from the Greek words "piezein," meaning 'to squeeze', and "elektron", for amber – a material known for its association with static electricity.

Some materials also display an inverse piezoelectric effect, where the application of an electric current induces a mechanical deformation.

Both direct and inverse piezoelectric materials are widely used in pressure sensors,



A piezoelectric gas lighter. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

accelerometers, and acoustic devices – where their ability to convert mechanical signals into electrical signals is crucial. The piezoelectric effect is also what made quartz watches so common and, over time, affordable.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Punjab Land of Unlimited Opportunities

Launching

MUKH MANTRI TEERTH YATRA

Punjab Government's humble initiative of free pilgrimage to Religious Places

Sri Amritsar Sahib

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Sri Patna Sahib

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Mata Naina Devi Ji

Sri Vrindavan Dham

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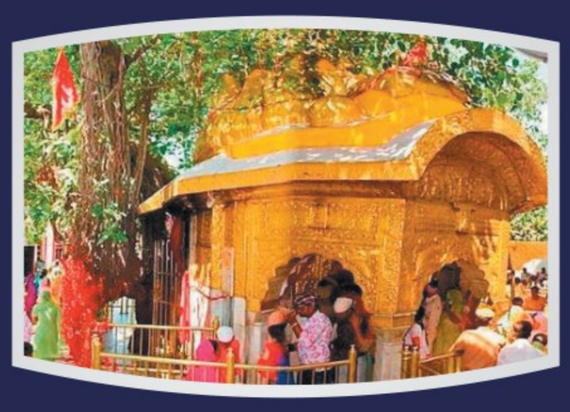
Mata Jwala Ji

Varanasi



Mata Chintpurni Ji

Sri Khatu Shyam Ji, Sri Salasar Dham

Khwaja Ajmer Sharif Dargah

STATE LEVEL FUNCTION

27th November, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Venue : Dhuri

Chief Guest **Shri Arvind Kejriwal**
will see off first batch of pilgrims

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

2220/13/182/2023/30069

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's estimated milk production in the 2022-23 period

230 in million tonnes. This is 22.8% higher than the 2018-19 figures. The top milk-producing State in 2022-23 was Uttar Pradesh with a share of 15.7%, followed by Rajasthan (14.4%). PTI

The number of times fossil fuel lobbyists attended climate talks

7,200 Delegates from world's biggest polluting firms have attended UN climate talks at least 7,200 times over the last 20 years, as per the Kick Big Polluters Out coalition. PTI

The number of Israeli hostages released by Hamas

13 The Israeli military says Hamas has released 13 Israelis and four foreigners, in the second round of swaps under a ceasefire deal. A total of 50 hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed during the truce. AP

Market share of private general insurers in first half

53.58 in percentage. Public sector undertaking general insurers had a combined market share of 31.99% during the April-September, 2023 period. PTI

Vertical drilling in Silkyara for alternate escape route

19.2 in metres. Vertical drilling was done to create an escape route for the 41 workers trapped inside the collapsed tunnel since November 12. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why has Binance been fined by the U.S.?

What transgressions took place in the world's largest crypto exchange in the past few years? Why did CEO and billionaire Changpeng Zhao resign? How is the company supposed to flag suspicious activity? And what does this mean for an already shaky blockchain sector?

EXPLAINER

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

The U.S. government last week slammed Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, with a $4.3 billion fine after confirming serious protocol failures as it frequently violated U.S. sanctions. Thereafter, on November 22, Binance's CEO and one of the crypto industry's most powerful players, billionaire Changpeng Zhao, announced his resignation. The latest update has shocked thousands of traders worldwide who rely on Binance (legally or illegally) to conduct their crypto trades.

Why is Binance's CEO stepping down?

In Seattle, Changpeng Zhao pleaded guilty to violating the Bank Secrecy Act by not maintaining an effective anti-money laundering programme. He will have to pay a $50 million fine and his resignation is part of a legal deal. "Today, I stepped down as CEO of Binance.... I made mistakes, and I must take responsibility," posted Zhao on X on November 22. He further stressed that U.S. agencies did not accuse the exchange of misappropriating user funds or engaging in market manipulation. He confirmed that he will continue to be a Binance shareholder who is available for company members to consult. Legal experts have pointed out that this will leave the former CEO with considerable influence over the company he founded in 2017.

Why was Binance fined?

Binance was charged with not maintaining a working anti-money laundering programme, as well as running an unlicenced money transmitting business, and violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, per court documents dated November 14. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that the exchange did not report suspicious transactions and that it told employees to keep information from law enforcement bodies. That meant millions of dollars in crypto transactions involving criminal actors like the Russia-based dark net marketplace Hydra and users based in sanctioned nations such as Iran were not reported, "allowing illicit actors to transact freely, supporting activities from child sexual abuse, to illegal narcotics, to terrorism, across more than 1,00,000 transactions."

Transactions "associated with terrorist groups like Hamas's Al-Qassam Brigades, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Al Qaeda, and ISIS" were also unreported. "Binance processed these transactions, but it never filed a single suspicious activity report. And it also allowed over 1.5 million virtual currency trades that violated U.S. sanctions," said Ms. Yellen on November 21. The Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network settlement agreement assessed a $3.4 billion penalty while the Office of Foreign Assets Control assessed a penalty of around $1 billion, bringing the total to above $4 billion. This marked the "largest enforcement action" in the Treasury's history, said Ms. Yellen.

Serious charges: Changpeng Zhao, former CEO of Binance in Greece on November 25, 2022. REUTERS

Has Binance faced legal issues before?

Binance has faced legal and compliance issues in a number of countries, but swiftly moved past most barriers under Zhao's audacious leadership style, with the company loudly expressing support for regulation while also pulling out of the jurisdictions which tried to regulate or probe its activities. The U.S. Treasury alleged that Binance had lied about exiting the U.S. years ago, and that it retained U.S. users as well as "significant" ties with the country.

In June this year, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) hit Binance with a lawsuit, claiming that it was comingling and diverting customer assets to a third party linked with Zhao, and that the exchange broke federal securities laws by "illegally conducting unregistered offers and sales of securities to U.S. investors."

How will this affect the crypto sector?

As more crypto exchanges with U.S. customers come under regulatory pressure, they may decide to comply with the country's registration requirements (even if just on paper alone), or exit the country completely. Some exchanges try to evade legal action by basing their headquarters in foreign tax havens. However, crypto investors who do not want their transactions monitored by the U.S. government may explore the riskier decentralised finance (DeFi) route or transact through non-regulated decentralised exchanges (DEXs).

How is Binance expected to track and report suspicious activity?

All crypto exchanges that are part of the U.S. financial system or serve U.S. customers are expected to implement controls to prevent money laundering, stop the financing of terrorism, and report transactions which violate U.S. sanctions. If such transactions still somehow occur, exchanges must immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement bodies so they can take action. From here on, Binance will have to report suspicious transactions it did not flag earlier, as well as implement effective AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism) programmes. It will also be strictly monitored for five years to make sure it completely exits the U.S. "The monitor will be able to access Binance's systems, transactions, and accounts and will review and report on all actions included in the settlement agreements. Failure to live up to these obligations could expose Binance to substantial additional penalties," said Ms. Yellen.

THE GIST

- The U.S. government this week slammed Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, with a $4.3 billion fine.
- In Seattle, Changpeng Zhao pleaded guilty to violating the Bank Secrecy Act by not maintaining an effective anti-money laundering programme. He will have to pay a $50 million fine and his resignation is part of a legal deal.
- Millions of dollars in crypto transactions involving criminal actors like the Russia-based dark net marketplace Hydra and users based in sanctioned nations such as Iran were not reported by Binance.

Why is Bihar demanding the Special Category Status?

What are the benefits which come with the title? What did the Raghuram Rajan Committee suggest?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On November 22, the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led Cabinet passed a resolution seeking the grant of special category status (SCS) to Bihar. The demand comes in the backdrop of the findings from the "Bihar Caste-based Survey, 2022", which revealed that nearly one-third of Bihar's population continues to live in poverty.

What is a special category status?

It is a classification granted by the Centre to assist the development of States that face geographical or socio-economic disadvantages. The SCS was introduced in 1969 on the recommendation of the fifth Finance Commission (FC). Five factors such as (i) hilly and difficult terrain (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population (iii) strategic location along international borders (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of state finances, are considered before granting SCS. In 1969, three States – Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland – were granted the SCS. Subsequently, eight more States including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand were given the SCS by the erstwhile National Development Council.

What are the benefits attached?

The SCS States used to receive grants based on the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula, which earmarked nearly 30% of the total central assistance for States to the SCS States. However, after the abolition of the Planning Commission and the recommendations of the 14th and 15th FC, this assistance to SCS States has been subsumed in an increased devolution of the divisible pool funds for all States (increased to 41% in the 15th FC from 32%). Additionally, in the SCS States, the Centre-State funding of centrally sponsored schemes is divided in the ratio of 90:10, far more favourable than the 60:40 or 80:20 splits for the general category States. Besides, there are several other incentives available to the SCS States in the form of concession in customs and excise duties, income tax rates and corporate tax rates to attract investments to set up new industries etc.

Why is Bihar demanding the SCS?

The demand for SCS for Bihar has been made by various political parties of the State time and again. The poverty and backwardness of the State are argued to be because of the lack of natural resources, continuous supply of water for irrigation, regular floods in the northern region and severe droughts in the southern part of the State. Simultaneously, the bifurcation of the State led to the shifting of industries to Jharkhand and created a dearth of employment and investment opportunities. With a per-capita GDP of around ₹54,000, Bihar has consistently been one of the poorest States. Highlighting the same in his fresh demand for SCS, CM Nitish Kumar, said that the State is home to around 94 lakh poor families and the granting of SCS will help the government get about ₹2.5 lakh crore required to fund various welfare measures over the next five years.

Do other States also want SCS?

Since its bifurcation in 2014, Andhra Pradesh has asked for a grant of SCS on the grounds of revenue loss due to Hyderabad going to Telangana. Additionally, Odisha has also been requesting for the SCS, highlighting its vulnerability to natural calamities such as cyclones and a large tribal population (nearly 22%). However, the Central government citing the 14th FC report, which made a recommendation to the Centre that no State be accorded the SCS, has repeatedly denied their demands.

Is Bihar's demand justified?

Although Bihar meets most of the criteria for the grant of SCS, it does not fulfil the requirement of hilly terrain and geographically difficult areas, which is considered to be the primary reason for difficulty in infrastructural development. In 2013, the Raghuram Rajan Committee set up by the Centre, placed Bihar in the "least developed category" and suggested a new methodology based on a 'multi -dimensional index' for devolving funds instead of a SCS, which can be revisited to address the State's backwardness.

The writer reads law at RGNUL, Punjab.

THE GIST

- On November 22, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led Cabinet passed a resolution seeking the grant of special category status (SCS) to Bihar.
- It is a classification granted by the Centre to assist the development of States that face geographical or socio-economic disadvantages.
- Although Bihar meets most of the criteria for the grant of SCS, it does not fulfil the requirement of hilly terrain and geographically difficult areas, which is considered to be the primary reason for difficulty in infrastructural development.

Vijayendra, HDK discuss strategies for Belagavi session, Lok Sabha polls

The two leaders exuded confidence of BJP-JD(S) alliance winning all the 28 LS seats in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State politics is hotting up as the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and newly appointed BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Sunday discussed strategies for the legislature session to be held in Belagavi from December 4 and the coming Lok Sabha elections.

While the meeting of the two leaders, held at the Bidadi farmhouse of Mr. Kumaraswamy, was termed as a courtesy call, the two are learnt to have discussed political developments in the State. This is the first meeting of the two leaders after Mr. Vijayendra took over as the BJP State president. The BJP leader had earlier met the Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda.

The two leaders exuded confidence over the performance of the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the Lok Sabha elections and claimed that the alliance would win all the 28 seats in Karnataka.

"In the interest of the nation, discussions revolved around strengthening Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hands by ensuring another term for him. The seat sharing between the two parties would be discussed at the high command level," Mr. Vijayendra told reporters after the meeting. "The Congress should not win even one seat. We will work together to teach the Congress government a lesson. We have taken the Lok Sabha elections seriously. Mr. Modi, [Home Minister] Amit Shah, and [BJP national president] J.P. Nadda have discussed the alliance with Mr. Kumaraswamy."

Chalking out plans: BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra met JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy at the latter's farmhouse in Bidadi on Sunday.

> The Congress should not win even one seat. We will work together to teach the Congress government a lesson. We have taken the Lok Sabha elections seriously.
>
> **B.Y. VIJAYENDRA,** BJP State president

On coordination

"Our alliance will win all the 28 seats in the State," Mr. Kumaraswamy said, adding that he and BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa had worked well together during the 2006 BJP-JD(S) government. "The same coordination should return. Mr. Vijayendra, Nikhil Kumaraswamy and leaders of the two parties will strive to bring back the same coordination," the former Chief Minister said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said the blunders of the Congress government would be exposed through documents, and that both Mr. Vijayendra and Mr. Nikhil will tour the State like brothers.

Mr. Kumaraswamy recalling the days of his erstwhile alliance with the BJP is being seen in political circles as an indication that both the BJP and the JD(S), who have again come together, are eyeing the next Assembly elections in the State in addition to their immediate target of putting up an impressive performance in the Lok Sabha polls.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Sons in trouble

These days, sons of politicians are more in the news than their fathers who have spent decades in the field. B.Y. Vijayendra, Yathindra, and H.D. Kumaraswamy, all sons of veteran politicians, made headlines in recent days.

Mr. Vijayendra has been appointed president of the Karnataka unit of the BJP, fueling dissidence among leaders of the north Karnataka region.

Mr. Yathindra was in the news for the wrong reasons. Mr. Kumaraswamy accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of outsourcing Varuna constituency works to his son Mr. Yathindra. This was after a video of Mr. Yathindra issuing instructions to an officer in the Chief Minister's Office went viral. Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that the conversation was about the transfer of officials and demanded Mr. Siddaramaiah's resignation. Mr. Siddaramaiah denied the corruption charges, saying that the conversation was about repairing schools under the CSR funds. The BJP too hit out at the father-son duo and questioned Mr. Yathindra's involvement in the administration.

Mr. Kumaraswamy, son of the former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, was on the back foot after illegally drawing power directly from the mainlines to illuminate his residence for Deepavali. Mr. Kumaraswamy chose to pay the fine to avoid further embarrassment. It seems it has become very difficult for sons to walk on the path followed by their fathers.

George hounded for electrocution

The recent death of a mother and child due to electrocution near Kadugodi in Bengaluru enraged the public. However, when Energy Minister K.J. George *(in picture)* held a press conference a couple of days later on the power situation in the State, many electronic media persons took it upon themselves to unleash this rage on the Minister and senior officials of Bescom present there. While five officials of Bescom were suspended after the accident, the media persons demanded that even senior officials should be punished instead of making only juniors the scapegoats. "Who will take the moral responsibility?" they asked, implying that senior officials should resign.

Hounded by these questions and visibly upset, Mr. George said, "Should I resign from the post claiming moral responsibility? Are you okay with that? I have no attachment to any post. I have resigned three times before from the administration. These things are not going to solve anything. We will conduct investigation and act accordingly."

Handwritten vs. printed documents

The Dharwad Bench of the High Court of Karnataka while handling a criminal appeal struggled to read the documents related to spot inspection, witness statement, and details of the property seized which were submitted in handwritten format. Even though the State Police Department has computerised and office-automated all its stations under a modernisation scheme, many police officials are still preferring conventional methods and submitting handwritten documents to the court despite having a print facility. This not only delays the legal procedure further but also leads to embarrassment.

Taking strong objection to this, the State police chief issued a circular to all the police officials to ensure that all the documents recorded at the station level are computerised and copies are submitted to the court in the print format compulsorily. Will the police personnel follow the instructions?

Nagesh Prabhu
Jahnavi T.R.
Imran Gowhar

BJP to set up legal helpline for its workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that he was getting complaints about the police harassing BJP workers who are criticising the Congress government on social media, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Sunday said 24-hour control rooms would be set up at the party State and district offices to help such workers.

On the occasion of the Constitution Day, he said the police did not have the power to curtail freedom of expression that had been granted by the Constitution.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha begins three-day dharna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha and Joint Committee of Trade Unions commenced its day-and-night three-day dharna at Freedom Park here demanding withdrawal of "anti-people" policies of the Centre and "anti-farmer" policies of the erstwhile BJP government in the State.

Karnataka Raitha Sangha president Badagalapura Nagendra told *The Hindu* that the organisations wanted the Governor to visit the protest site on Monday and the Chief Minister to visit them on Tuesday.

Siddaramaiah to hold Janata Darshan today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has made arrangements to hold the first full-fledged Janata Darshan on Monday after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took over in his second term.

While officials have been directed to be present, priority will be given to addressing grievances on the spot, a press release from the Chief Minister's Office said on Sunday. As many as 20 counters will be established and about 100 officials will man the counters. Health officials will be deployed and precautionary measures taken. Separate counters will be set up for senior citizens and specially abled. All the grievances will be registered by teams that are being deployed.

On Sunday, the Chief Minister's Additional Chief Secretary Rajneesh Goel visited the Chief Minister's Home Office 'Krishna' to monitor the final arrangements. The release said the grievances received would be segregated department-wise, and acknowledgements given. The Chief Minister would then hear grievances and direct for relief, he added.

The release said that directions had been issued to all secretaries and heads of the department to be present, and Deputy Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers of zilla panchayats, and Superintendents of Police of all districts, and taluk-level officials to be available.

Meanwhile, Janata Dal (Secular) State president and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy ridiculed the Janata Darshan and said that it was limited to newspaper advertisements that have been issued at the cost of tax payer's money.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	South West-2	BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/2089/2023-24 Dt: 23/11/2023 (Reserved for ST)	Rs.18,61,975/- / Rs.18,700/-	05-12-2023 upto 12.00 Noon.	07-12-2023 after 12.00 Noon

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-2).

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

2.	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3195/2023-24 Dt: 23/11/2023-2nd Call	Rs.33,65,734/- / Rs.67,400/-	04-12-2023 upto 3.00 p.m.	06-12-2023 after 3.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2).

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design&QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

3.	MIS	BWSSB/EMS/TE/MS1/AE/519/2023-24 Dt: 24/11/2023-3rd Call	Rs.23,40,000/- / Rs.50,000/-	04-12-2023 upto 3.00 p.m.	05-12-2023 at 4.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MIS).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO2273/23-24

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Saraswathy Ramakrishnan
16-05-1936 to 25-11-2010

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan
25-08-1927 to 27-11-2012

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DEATH

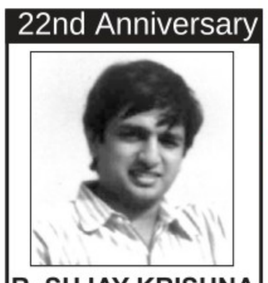
SAD DEMISE

With profound grief we inform you that
Smt. Meera Mani
Wife of
Shri N S Mani
has attained Shivaloka Prapthi on
23-November-2023.

Deeply mourned by Ranjani, Prakash, Vidya, Raja, Siddhartha, Sumyukthaa, Adhvik, Akarsh
+91 44 28157910

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

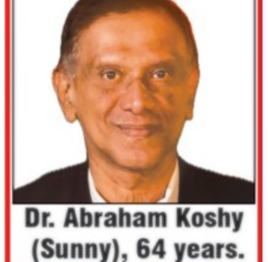
22nd Anniversary



R. SUJAY KRISHNA
(1980-2001)
"Your love and sweet memories will live with us forever"
Sorrowing **Mummy, Daddy, Vijay, Ramani, Shravan & Tanmay**

DEATH

Promoted to Glory



Dr. Abraham Koshy (Sunny), 64 years.
26-08-1959 - 25-11-2023
Director, Riskchem Engineering
Funeral service at Home - 27-11-2023 at 9 AM (ECR Panaiyur)
Funeral service at Church - 27-11-2023 at 10 AM (St. Pauls Marthoma Church Velachery)
Burial at 1PM at Marthoma Mission Center Cemetry, Minjur.
Deeply mourned by :
Wife - Anita
Children - Meghana & Rakesh, Nishant & Taniya
Grandchildren - Aathira & Aarav
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BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, BASAVA BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS, BANGALORE-560001

Under the Consumer Protection Act,1986

Execution Application No. 7/2021
IN
CC/530/2017

Bharathi Moses ...Petitioner / Complainant / Appellant
Versus
Harish J Naidu ...Opposite Party / Respondent(s)

To: Opposite Party / Respondent Name:

Harish.J.Naidu, C/o M/s Dreamz Infra India Ltd., A Company incorporated under Companies Act, having its office at No. 577/B, 2nd floor, Outer Ring Road, Teacher Colony, Koramangala, Near Silk Board Bus Stop Stand, Bangalore-560 076. Rep, by its Managing Director Ms. Disha Choudhary 2C-74, Windermere CHS ltd., Oshiwara Meera Tower, Andheri (West), Mumbai, Azad Nagar, Maharastra - 400 053

Show Cause Notice Under Section 71 of the Consumer Protection Act 2019 to the Respondent for Hearing of Execution Application in Daily English News Paper, 'The Hindu' Bangalore Edition

The Decree Holder has filed an Execution Petition stating that the Judgement Debtor have not complied with the Orders of this State Commission in Complaint No. 530/2017 Dated 04/02/2021 and sought action against you under Section 71 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, in person or through pleader duly instructed, on this **6th January 2024** at **11.00 AM** to show cause why action shall not be taken u/s 71 of the C P Act for your disobedience of the Order Passed.

Given under my hand the seal of this Commission on this 23 November 2023.

By Order of the State Commission,
***Sd/-* Asst. Registrar-cum-Asst.Admn.Officer**

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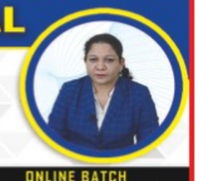

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRITHIKA Rajendran D/o Rajendran Muniswamy W/o Gowshikk Rajkumar R/o 688 7th Main, Opp Supra South City Hospital, R B I Layout, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560078; have changed my name to Krithika R Rajkumar.

I, PUSHPALATHA, W/o Muddaiah, R/at No.16, Geetha Colony, Near Arogya Kendra Hospital, Yelechenahalli, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name from Pushpalatha to Charvika vide affidavit dated 24/11/2023 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that as per the Order of the Securities and Exchange Board of India in the matter of Mr. V. N. Aravind (Proprietor of Magic Mantra) vide Order No.: QJA/MK/SRO/SRO/28902/2023-24, any clients/complainants/investors of the aforesaid firm who have paid the fees shall contact the undernamed for their refund of money. Contact Person: V. N. Aravind; Contact No.: +91– 94922 16040; E–mail id: aravindvn93@gmail.com; Address: No.918, 2nd Floor, 12th Main, Srinivasanagara, Bangalore–560050.

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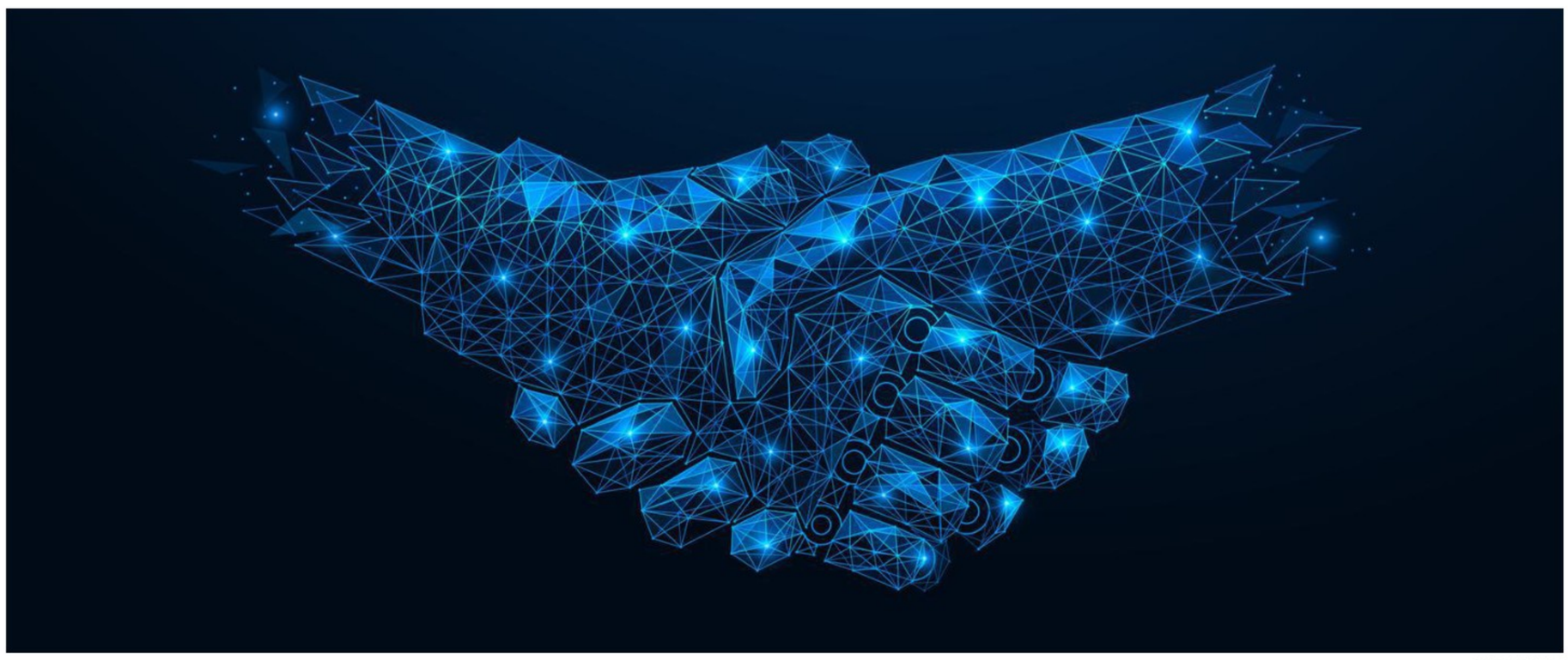


GETTY IMAGES

DAOs: how these decentralised entities are shaping the future of the digital world

The idea behind Decentralised Autonomous Organisations is to create self-sustaining, community-driven entities governed by smart contracts on blockchain networks. However, the legality and regulatory framework surrounding DAOs remain a topic of debate

Sanhita Chauriha

Decentralised Autonomous Organisations (DAOs) represent a groundbreaking innovation at the intersection of blockchain technology and governance. These digital entities operate without centralised control and are governed by smart contracts and the consensus of their members, often utilising cryptocurrencies as a means of decision-making and resource allocation. DAOs have garnered attention for their potential to change various industries, including finance, art, and governance, by fostering transparent, democratic, and self-executing systems. These entities are not only reshaping traditional business structures but also challenging the way we perceive trust, governance, and collaboration in the digital world.

The genesis of DAOs

DAO is an organisation represented by rules encoded as a computer program that is transparent, controlled by the respective organisation members, and not influenced by a government. The idea behind DAOs is to create self-sustaining, community-driven entities governed by smart contracts on blockchain networks. These smart contracts automatically execute predefined rules without the need for intermediaries, ensuring trust through code rather than traditional authorities. One of the most important aspects of DAOs is their potential to change the idea of collaboration. They enable global, borderless cooperation on an unprecedented scale. Participants, often referred to as token holders, can propose and vote on decisions related to the organisation's goals and resources. This decentralised decision-making process ensures that no single entity holds undue influence.

The various use cases

DAOs are already making their mark across diverse industries. In the realm of decentralised finance, platforms like Compound and MakerDAO have introduced lending and borrowing services, enabling users to participate in the global financial ecosystem without relying on traditional banks. In the art world, artists are tokenising their creations and utilising DAOs to manage royalties and maintain control over their intellectual property.

Supply chain management is another arena where DAOs are gaining traction, as they offer transparency and traceability in global supply chains, ensuring the authenticity and quality of products. Even in the governance of online communities, DAOs have emerged as tools for decision-making, with platforms like DAOstack facilitating decentralised governance structures for internet communities. These examples showcase the versatility of DAOs, demonstrating their potential to reshape industries across various sectors.

Implications for the digital world

DAOs are ushering in a transformation in the digital world by embodying several key principles. Firstly, they are decentralising entities, shifting power away from centralised authorities and placing it firmly in the hands of the collective. Decision-making within DAOs becomes a democratic process, where token holders have a direct say, resulting in a more equitable distribution of influence. For instance, in a DAO governed community-driven project, contributors worldwide can participate in shaping its direction, diminishing the dominance of a single central entity.

Secondly, transparency and trust are fundamental tenets of DAOs. Smart contracts that underpin DAO operations are transparent and immutable, fostering trust among participants. Rules are predefined and require consensus for alteration, minimising the need for intermediaries. This transparency can potentially disrupt traditional industries by eliminating the opacity often associated with centralised organisations.

Thirdly, DAOs champion inclusivity, democratising access to resources and opportunities. They transcend geographical and socio-economic barriers, enabling global participation. This inclusivity not only promotes diversity but also fuels innovation, as individuals from various backgrounds collaborate to create innovative solutions.

Lastly, DAOs inspire new forms of collaboration. They facilitate global cooperation, allowing participants with shared goals to unite without the need for intermediaries. This dynamic environment fosters innovation and cooperation as ideas flow freely, unencumbered by hierarchical structures. Together, these principles underscore the transformative potential of DAOs, paving the way for a more decentralised, equitable, and collaborative digital future.

The challenges and controversies

The journey of DAOs has not been without hurdles. The infamous DAO hack in 2016 exposed vulnerabilities in the code, leading to a contentious hard fork (a hard fork refers to a change in a network's protocol that makes previously invalid blocks and transactions valid, or vice-versa) in the Ethereum blockchain. This incident highlighted the need for rigorous security audits and raised questions about the immutability of blockchain systems.

Moreover, the legality and regulatory framework surrounding DAOs remain a topic of debate. Traditional legal systems are still catching up with the decentralised nature of these entities, leaving room for uncertainty in many jurisdictions.

Regulatory uncertainty looms large as jurisdictions grapple with classifying and regulating these decentralised entities. DAO tokens, often representing ownership or participation, can potentially be considered securities, subjecting them to complex regulatory requirements and compliance challenges. Legal liability within DAOs remain elusive, with decentralised decision-making and automated smart contracts making it difficult to assign responsibility for actions taken. Issues like smart contract vulnerabilities and security breaches introduce questions of legal recourse and liability. Taxation of transactions within DAOs, identity verification, and compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations further add layers of complexity to the legal framework. Dispute resolution, often relying on code-based solutions, present a unique challenge in the absence of traditional legal mechanisms.

Amongst these challenges, stakeholders are actively working to establish legal frameworks that balance innovation with compliance. DAO creators, participants, and regulators are collaborating to develop guidelines that accommodate the unique characteristics of DAOs within existing regulatory structures. They aim to address concerns such as governance, intellectual property, and cross-border operations while ensuring transparency and fairness in token-based decision-making.

As DAOs continue to evolve and proliferate, it is imperative that legal experts, blockchain developers, and policymakers engage in ongoing discussions to create a legal framework that allows DAOs to harness their transformative potential while adhering to the complexities of the law. Finding this delicate balance is essential for the future coexistence of decentralised innovation and legal compliance.

In conclusion, DAOs represent a pivotal shift in how we organise and collaborate in the digital world. While challenges and uncertainties remain, the potential for DAOs to drive positive change in various sectors is undeniable. It is crucial for regulators, developers, and participants to work collaboratively to harness the full potential of DAOs while addressing their evolving challenges.

These decentralised entities are shaping the digital future, and the possibilities they offer are limited only by our collective imagination.

Sanhita works in the Applied Law and Technology Vertical of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Ridley Scott film *Napolean* starring Joaquin Phoenix is in theatres. How much do you know about the French emperor, who died at the age of 51?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

This unified legal code gave post-revolutionary France its first coherent set of laws concerning property, colonial affairs, and family and individual rights. What is this framework, which influenced European and Latin American laws in the 19th century, called?

QUESTION 2

When Napolean was in Egypt in 1798, he established contact with an Indian ruler who he was keen to join forces with, in order to drive the British out of India. Who was this leader?

QUESTION 3

According to popular myth, a saucy dish containing the word 'X' is said to have been invented by Napolean's chef when Napolean was fighting the Austrians in 'X' in northern Italy. Napolean's war horse was also called 'X' after this battle. What is 'X' and what is the name of the dish?

QUESTION 4

What is the period between Napolean's return from exile on the island of Elba and the time when King Louis XVIII retook the throne called?

QUESTION 5

In 1802, Napolean restored a practice which was banned after the French Revolution. Two years ago, President Emmanuel Macron called Napolean's move a "betrayal of the spirit of Enlightenment"? What practice did Napolean restore?

Visual question:

This is a painting by Jean-Leon Gerome, of the execution of a Marshall in Napolean's army. Napolean referred to this man as the "bravest of the brave." Who is this man?

Questions and Answers of the November 24 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The insurgent group in Colombia, which is now in talks for a peace deal with the Colombian regime. **Ans: ELN or National Liberation Army**

2. The political wing of this group is the de facto ruler of the Wa State in Myanmar. **Ans: United Wa State Army**

3. This person became the general secretary of this organisation that continues to remain the largest insurgent threat to the Indian state. **Ans: Nambala Kesava Rao; Communist Party of India (Maoist)**

4. This person led this organisation that wages a militant struggle for autonomy and cultural rights for Kurds in Turkey. **Ans: Abdullah Ocalan; PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party)**

5. Originating in the Yemeni governorate of Sa'ada in the 1990s, this movement continues to hold sway in the conflict-prone country. **Ans: The Houthis**

Visual: Name this person. **Ans: Subcomandante Marcos. Now known as Subcomandante Insurgente Galeano**

Early Birds: Imdadul Hossain Mallick| Kriti Choudhary

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Her father's company is going under

And to make matters worse, she cannot wrap her head around the legal language and its implications

S. Upendran

"Been out of town?"

"No, I've been in town. Things are pretty bad at the office. If I were to go on leave right now, my boss would.."

"He'd probably fire you!"

"That's right! How did you guess?"

"There are all kinds of rumours about your company. Some people say that it's likely to go under. Is it true?"

"Go under? Does it mean the company has financial problems?"

"Very good! That's one of the meanings of the expression. When you say that a company is likely to 'go under', what you're suggesting is that because of financial problems, the company is likely to be shut down."

"In other words, you're likely to close operation."

"I guess you could say that. Here's an example. *In 2020, during COVID, many a small business went under.*"

"Things have been pretty bad since then. If our business doesn't pick up in the next couple of months, we're likely to go under."

"It's been nearly five years since my uncle's company went under."

"Has it really been that long? Time flies! I remember the dazed look he had when he was told about it. The poor man...."

"Yes, the poor man couldn't wrap his head around what had happened."

"Wrap his head around? What are you talking about?"

"The expression 'wrap your head around something' is mostly used in American English in informal contexts. It means to understand something. It usually carries with it the suggestion that what is to be understood is something challenging or strange."

"It's something challenging for the individual, and not for everyone."

"That's right! When I was in school, I had a hard time wrapping my head around algebra and geometry."

"I think many of us did. *A lot of girls today don't want to get married. My grandmother finds it difficult to wrap her head around that.*"

"That's a good example. It's also possible to say 'wrap your mind around something'. I can't wrap my mind around how the stock market works."

"If you ask me, I don't think anyone does! Some people just pretend to know!"

"Tell me, is your company doing anything to ensure that it doesn't go under? Is your boss taking any..."

"I understand we're trying to get a loan. But we're experiencing problems to get a loan."

"We generally don't say, 'experience problems to get', but 'experience problems in getting'. *The students were experiencing problems in school.*"

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Devolution:
the process of declining from a higher to a lower level of effective power or vitality or essential quality; the delegation of authority (especially from a central to a regional government)

Synonyms: degeneration, devolvement

Usage: *The devolution of powers is necessary for a democracy.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/devolutionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /di:və'lu:ʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Cubbon Park: The fulcrum of Bengaluru's life

'When I started research for this book, I was stunned at how much more there was to unearth, especially where the park's contemporary history - the last 50 years - was concerned'

INTERVIEW

Roopa Pai

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

When Roopa Pai was commissioned by her editor to write a hyperlocal book about *some* neighbourhood in Bengaluru, she wasn't sure which one to choose, a "place that has held me and my memories from the time I was a child, all through my growing up years and even now," said Roopa at a recent lecture about her book, *Cubbon Park: The Green Heart of Bengaluru,* at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

After a lot of thinking, it came to her: Cubbon Park. "It was my *Midnight's Children* moment," she said. Like Saleem Sinai, the protagonist of Salman Rushdie's award-winning novel whose life is inextricably linked to the events unfurling in a newly independent India, Roopa saw Cubbon Park as not just the fulcrum of her life. "It was the fulcrum of Bangalore's life," she said before going on to trace the space's genesis, complex history and the people who played a vital role in making it what it is today.

In that freewheeling talk at IISc, peppered with diverse facts, startling revelations and vibrant stories, Roopa brought alive the past, leapfrogging from how Bengaluru became the State's capital to the vicarage at the Isle of Man where Mark Cubbon was born in 1775, Tipu Sultan's fantastic Mysore rockets and how the Vidhana Soudha came into being, among many other things.

Can you tell me more about your relationship with Cubbon Park and how it has been so central to your life?

I have had the most wonderful relationship with Cubbon Park throughout my life. I was born in the St. Martha's Hospital along the edge of the park, was taken there as a child for painting competitions and movie screenings and popcorn and cotton candy and rides on the Putani Express, did my engineering at UVCE, again on the edge of the park, spent many fun afternoons at the Century Club inside the park, where my parents were members, took my own children there when we returned to Bangalore after a dozen years away, and now that the children are grown and gone, take my dog there twice a week. Simply put, Cubbon Park has been as central to my life as it has been to the city's life.

Visitors at the Cubbon Park.

What was your research process? I know you have spoken about how there has not been an in-depth narrative about Cubbon Park before, despite it being mentioned in many other books.

When we returned to India from the U.S., my husband and I set up a heritage walking tour company called BangaloreWalks. We did a lot of research into the history of Bangalore. I have been taking schoolchildren on history walks for over 15 years. So, you could say a large part of the research was already done.

But when I started research for this book, I was stunned at how much more there was to unearth, especially where the park's contemporary history - the last 50 years - was concerned. I did a lot of interviews with lead players in the various events to get these bits of the story and was enthralled.

The citizen activism around the park, the number of PILs that had been filed by ordinary citizens determined to protect the park, the activist judges of the High Court who had brought in sweeping changes with how people used the park, the Horticulture Department officials who had used their position to effect good things for the space; it was a fascinating story and a compelling one.

Bimal Desai, a theatre artiste and entrepreneur responsible for raising citizen consciousness around the park from the nineties onwards, had entire dossiers of press clippings from those times, which he generously lent to me. I pieced the story together from all these diverse sources.

What struck me about the park's history is how globalised and entwined the world was even back then.

Yes, absolutely. We tend to think of the world today as a 'global village' because it is intimately connected by technology. But it has always been so.

Here's a lovely little story that illustrates that. Three years after Sir C .V. Raman had won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for his work on the scattering of light, he was invited to come to Bangalore and take over as the director of IISc. Determined to set up a world-class Department of Physics in the Institute, Raman cast his net far and wide.

That's how he discovered the brilliant German physicist Max Born, who had fled Germany with his family in 1933 when the Nazi Party came to power (Born was Jewish) and he was fired from his job. Max Born, who would himself win the Nobel Prize in 1954, accepted Raman's invitation and came to take up a position as a reader in The Physics Department for six months. Born became very friendly with the then Dewan of Mysore, Sir Mirza Ismail, during his time here. A few years later, Sir Mirza contacted Born to ask him if he could recommend someone for the position of Chief Architect of the Kingdom of Mysore. Born recommended his own nephew, Otto Koenigsberger. Otto arrived in 1939 and went on to build several buildings of avant-garde and climate-friendly design in IISc. He also designed and built Victory Hall in Cubbon Park to commemorate the Allied victory in 1945. In later years, that building became the iconic, beloved Bal Bhavan.

A view of the *Tabebuia* flowers in full bloom in Cubbon park.

Roopa Pai

How did the fact that you approached Cubbon Park as an insider shape the narrative of the book?

So many people who have read the book have remarked that it reads like a love letter. I guess that makes me a very biased narrator. Being born and brought up in Bangalore and having experienced the park as a child, like thousands of other Bangaloreans, also helped me establish that instant connection with my interviewees, and the conversation flowed very easily after that.

I know you started with engineering before foraying into writing for children. Can you trace your writing journey?

My four years of engineering were the detour, not the writing for children. I got myself a B.E. more because my parents would not have it any other way than out of my own interest.

I have always been drawn towards writing - one of the lucky ones who always knew what she wanted to do when she grew up.

The desire to write for children was the result of reading some wonderful children's magazines growing up: *NatGeo Kids*, a subscription to which my uncle in the U.S. had gifted us, and the brilliant Indian children's magazine *Target*. My one aim in life became working for *Target*, and when I had finished my B.E., I moved to Delhi to follow that dream, with no idea if there was even a vacancy. But there was, and I got the job and became a children's writer! Today, my editor at Hachette Publishers, which has published most of my books for children, is the same one who interviewed me for the job at *Target* all those years ago. It's crazy how the universe works.

Bangalore often exists in cliché--pensioners City, Garden City, IT and startup capital, etc. I wonder if you had any thoughts about it, especially as a witness to these changes.

Change is the only constant. Change indicates movement in whichever direction. In Bangalore's case, the changes have been positive in many ways. Sure, we have the traffic from all the young dreamers moving into the city, but we also have so many unicorns out of Bangalore because of the same churn, which throws out fresh ideas and great partnerships. The opposite of change would be stagnation, which is never good.

The ancient history and heritage of the city aren't always seen, something that your walking tours often address.

Yes, Bangalore feels like a young, modern city, even for people who live here. But her history stretches back over 1000 years - a 9th-century veeragallu found in a temple in Begur (near today's Silk Board) mentions Bengaluru as the town around it. So, there is a lot of history, and much of it has been meticulously recorded. If you have an interest in the subject, there are places you can find the information - the very stones will speak to you.

My passion for telling these stories to children comes from elsewhere. I believe that it is really important that children know and appreciate where they come from. Once you equip them with certain ways of seeing their cities, they will be able to look at other cities and countries with a more balanced eye, understanding that there is no perfect situation and that every place is made up of both its good and not-so-good sides.

In an age where history is often seen in black-and-white terms, with statues being pulled down and names of cities and roads being changed, I noticed that you approach it with a fair bit of nuance, something that is often missing in today's narrative. Can you talk about that?

Indian storytelling, Indian philosophy, and the Indian worldview have always maintained that there is no black and white in the world, no entirely good or entirely evil people. People behave in certain ways in certain circumstances, and you see them as heroes or villains, depending on your point of view, at that time. Because I work with children so much and write for them, I am careful not to let my biases colour their thinking.

I prefer to tell stories in open-ended ways without labelling people one way or another. I present them in terms of their actions and constraints and let the kids come to their own conclusions, if any, about who was good and who was bad. Usually, they end up being on the fence about it, which is good because it opens up the space for introspection and respectful, objective conversations.

SPARSH Foundation to provide free surgeries for 200 underprivileged children

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 200 underprivileged children suffering from various congenital and acquired medical conditions will undergo free surgeries under the 'SPARSH Vachana' initiative announced by SPARSH Foundation.

The Foundation has announced the 11th edition of its initiative that focuses on improving the lives of these children.

This year's initiative was inaugurated by Kannada cine actor Aishani Shetty and Sharan Shivaraj Patil, Chairman and Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon, at the hospital. Also present at the ceremony were some of the deserving children who have been shortlisted for this year's surgeries along with the children who had previously benefited under this programme.

The Foundation has performed over 1500 surgeries for underprivileged children till date.

This year the programme has expanded by including a broader spectrum of medical specialties including Cardiac, Neuroscience, and Gastrointestinal procedures for the children.

Dr. Sharan Patil said the initiative represents the Foundation's dedication in uniting exceptional clinical expertise and modern technology to address intricate healthcare challenges faced by individuals with modest means.

"Our Foundation has consistently upheld the principle that every child should have equal access to high-quality medical care, irrespective of their socioeconomic status," he said.

Pointing out that additional medical specialities have been included under the programme, Dr. Patil said the Foundation will provide all the necessary infrastructure and logistics, including operation theatres and wards.

"A dedicated team comprising operating surgeons, theatre staff, nursing staff, paramedical staff, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and dieticians, all operating under the umbrella of SPARSH Hospital, will offer their services free of cost.

This will also include comprehensive post-operative care for as long as required," he added.

Mantel pieces that shine with honesty and wit

It is tempting to think of the novel as Test match cricket and the essay as a limited-over game

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Last week, I watched an old television interview with the American writer Gore Vidal where he insisted (Vidal always insisted, whether writing or speaking) that the essay would endure longer than the novel as a literary form. In other words, Montaigne would outlive Updike.

Gore, who loved to provoke, had once written, "Montaigne will survive because the essay, meaning direct communication between the writer and his reader, will outlast the novel by at least a thousand years." Updike he dismissed as a "middlebrow" writer. It is the worst of the brows, high and low being the others.

Gore himself might be a good example of his theory. His novels haven't aged as well as his essays have, although the former are mainly historical and the latter were mainly topical in his time. Perhaps that is a personal bias - I read his collections of essays eagerly but couldn't finish any of his novels, from *Myra Breckinridge* to *Burr* to *The Judgement of Paris*. His essays were deliciously pugnacious, judgements unfiltered by good manners.

A file photo of Hilary Mantel's novel *The Mirror and the Light* is displayed at a bookstore in London. REUTERS

My personal preferences are no guarantee of literary longevity, of course, but I see the old bias emerging again as I read *A Memoir of My Former Self*. This is a collection of occasional essays by Hilary Mantel, a far superior writer to Vidal (and a far inferior self-promoter). Mantel's *Wolf Hall* trilogy intimidated me by its sheer size, 2,112 pages in all, and by the remoteness of its subject matter, 16th century England and the rise of Thomas Cromwell.

But the essays are another matter. There is depth and unexpectedness, passion and compassion, and the writer shines through as a human being and friend. Fiction tends to mask the writer, who has to speak in the different voices of her many characters. The essays are as much a journey of self-discovery as it is an exercise in exposing oneself. "Anything I have achieved has been in the teeth of the disease," Mantel once said, referring to her struggles with endometriosis, from the delayed diagnosis to the botched surgery that followed.

Most novelists look down on their journalistic writings. "I think of writing journalism and criticism as writing left-handed," said the British writer Martin Amis, "where the connection isn't to the part of me where novels come from."

It is tempting to think of the novel as Test match cricket and the essay as a limited-over game meant for quick consumption. But go deeper, and you realise that each format, writing or cricket, has its own rhythms, its own techniques, and its own rewards.

"Fiction isn't made by scraping the bones of topicality for the last shreds and sinews, to be processed into mechanically recovered prose," Mantel writes in the inaugural piece in her new collection. "Like journalism, it deals in ideas as well as facts, but also in metaphors, symbols and myths. It multiplies ambiguity. It's about the particular, which suggests the general..."

Gore Vidal might not have agreed. Or then again, being the contrarian he was, he might have.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 27, 1973

Unobtrusive Visitor

Dharwar, Nov. 26: The Karnatak Medical College hospital had an early caller yesterday. A middle aged person, clad in typical rural dress entered the hospital unobtrusively after a short talk with the watchman who, for a while did not allow him to get inside.

Going round the hospital in his own way the person showed curiosity in the case sheets making particular note of the dispensation of drugs and injections. The medical men on duty, including paramedical staff, were in their own world, some of them dozing, while others were in the dormitory.

It was only when the person persisted in his enquiry and prolonged his visit that his identity was found out.It was the Health Minister Mr. Siddaveerappa.

The Minister told pressmen later that his visit was worth the trouble although his efforts did not result in any big catch. He hoped that the medical staff should be more alert in attending to the needs of the patient.

Car Can be Run on Cooking Gas

Madras, Nov. 26: A technique has been developed by a local auto mechanic by which a car can be operated on domestic cooking gas, instead of on petrol.

The mechanic, Mr. D. Kannan demonstrated here last week the technique on an old Dodge van with recently renewed piston rings. The demonstration was witnessed among others by representatives of some automobile firms. The gas cylinder kept in the luggage boot was feeding the engine.

CITYBEATS

Great start to the day

ON GOING
This new breakfast menu serves you sunny side-ups and soft bagel egg salad sandwiches. There are also Danish blue toasties and smoked ham bagels along with Brik Oven's signature sourdough sandwiches on the menu. These can be paired with a new line of coffees and cold brews available there.
At Brik Oven, Indiranagar. Call 9880955129.

Binge on breakfast

ON GOING
Called the Lazy Breakfast Club, this menu has been launched by Cafe Noir, where breakfast is "an all day" event. On the cards are all-inclusive bowls such as the noir Buddha bowl, morning glory bowl with pinwheel croissant burgers, egg croissant-wich and more.
Cafe Noir is situated on Vittal Mallya Road.

Artisanal pizzas

ON GOING
Smoke House Deli has a Pizza Festival going on. It is offering a new line-up of pizzas such as artisanal creations and panuzzo besides their signature pizzas. These can be accompanied by cocktails and sangrias. Smoke House Deli outlets are on Lavelle Road, Forum Shantiniketan Mall Whitefield and 100ft Road, Indiranagar.
Across all Smoke House Deli outlets

Pitch-perfect anthem

How Bengaluru band Savaari's anthem resonated with Team India's World Cup performance

Praveen Sudevan

Pruthvi Mangiri, drummer and one of the founders of the Bengaluru-based multilingual fusion band Savaari, listened to the official anthem of the 2023 Cricket World Cup while commuting. He found it somewhat underwhelming.

The quadrennial event – the biggest and the most prestigious in cricket – was returning to India after a decade. And Pruthvi and his band felt the occasion needed a better anthem to welcome it. So, they took it upon themselves to create one. Not only compose a song but also release a music video with it.

The thing is, India's first match against Australia was less than 36 hours away. And the band wanted to release the video before the game.

"We literally didn't sleep the whole night. We kept working throughout the 36 hours," says Saravana Gowtham, Savaari's guitarist. The number 36, incidentally, is a memorable one for fans of the Indian cricket team as it got all out for 36 in the second innings of the first Test match before bouncing back to script a historical series victory in Australia in 2020-21.

"We were performing at a show two days before the India-Australia game. That is when we decided we were going to make the anthem. We didn't even rest that night. We just went to our homes, freshened up, returned to the studio and started working on it," Gowtham recalls.

The process was exhausting yet exhilarating. The band members, for instance, engaged in a street cricket match for the music video.

"It took us back to our childhood," says Pruthvi.

The anthem, titled *It's World Cup Time*, is accompanied by visuals of the men in the band playing gully cricket with a tennis ball, a small, gripless bat, and two vertically arranged building blocks as makeshift stumps. The first few lines of the song are: 'Rise up baby, It's World Cup time; 12 years before, We crossed the line; Upwards and strong, We believe it's time, To win again we want to thrive'.

These words were vindicated when India coasted to a comfortable victory in its first match against Australia.

The band members – Pruthvi, Gowtham, Suraj Rajan (vocals and acoustic guitar), Mahesh Jude Pereira (bass and vocals), Ramcharan SR (violin), Abhishek MB (flute and saxophone), Tejas Rajput (percussion), Nadeera Banu (vocals), Pathikrit (photographer and videographer), and Apurba Das (live sound engineer) – were chuffed.

The lyrics, written in English, Hindi, Tamil, and Malayalam, mention Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah and others. And these players, as the tournament progressed, proved to be the team's lynchpins. The cricket-crazy members of Savaari found it hard to contain their excitement as India marched to the final of the tournament without a defeat.

Then, whatever happened the previous Sunday happened. Much like the aspirations of Indian supporters, Savaari's dreams of witnessing Rohit and his teammates hoist the silver-and-gold trophy were extinguished by the outstanding performance of the Australian team.

However, the lyrics continued to resonate with the team's journey until the very end. For, the last stanza begins with the line, 'If not now then we'll have to; Wait for four more years.'

Despite the defeat, Pruthvi asserts that the Indian team's campaign remains truly inspirational.

"One match doesn't define a team's calibre. Consistent performance is the key. That's what truly counts," he says.

For a budding band, only a year into its journey, it's a compelling lesson drawn from the spirit of the Indian team as the anthem ends with the line: 'We believe you can; We believe you can'.

Game faces Members of the Savaari band. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> One match doesn't define a team's calibre. Consistent performance is the key. That's what truly counts.
>
> **PRUTHVI MANGIRI**
> Co-founder of Saavari on India's World Cup final defeat

MOVIE REVIEW

Lost zing despite hopeful start

Vivek MV

The first half of *Bad Manners* is a typical Suri film. We are introduced to a world where committing a crime is the order of the day. Characters embody pure evil, and the narrative keeps jumping to different timelines. The director plays it to his strength, forcing you to excuse his repetitive treatment of crime dramas.

Rudresh, A.K.A Rudra (Abhishek Ambareesh), is a police officer who loses his service weapon. He goes under disguise to a town called Goda to buy a 9MM pistol. Suri creates Goda, a place where even children make all types of guns (from machine guns to pistols) with great attention to detail. In Goda, a gun-maker is at loggerheads with two eccentric, dangerous criminals. Meanwhile, a kidnapping case opens another dimension to the story.

When *Bad Manners* went on the floors, the biggest question people had in mind was, "Can an idiosyncratic filmmaker like Suri offer a great launchpad to a star kid?" (Abhishek Ambareesh is the son of late Kannada superstar Ambareesh). There is no one answer to this.

Work in progress Abhishek Ambareesh in a still from *Bad Manners*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Abhishek's performance isn't lousy, compared to his debut movie *Amar*. Here, while he is convincing in portraying the aggression of a police officer, he appears robotic in emotional sequences. Suri tries to balance his style with the demands of a star-vehicle and succeeds marginally.

Bad Manners (Kannada)
Director: Suri
Cast: Abhishek Ambareesh, Tara, Rachita Ram, Sharath Lohitashwa
Runtime: 130 minutes
Storyline: After his father's death, Rudra is given a job in the police department. What happens when he loses his service gun at a crime scene?

The writing (Suri has co-written the script with Amri) goes downhill in the second half. In a bid to show the rise of Rudra as a police officer, the film becomes generic, and the half-baked love story (involving Rachita Ram) further dents the film. There are silly scenes that attempt to justify the movie's bizarre title.

As in Suri's *Tagaru*, even *Bad Manners* has people, from Rudra's mother (Tara) to his higher-up (Sharath Lohitashwa), preaching about the responsibilities of a police officer.

The biggest problem with the second half of *Bad Manners* is that it fails to have an air of intrigue around it. The plot runs in circles, making it difficult to sit through. The reverse chronology screenplay, helped by brilliant editing, worked well in Suri's previous film *Popcorn Monkey Tiger*.

But the same technique in this film feels gimmicky, adding no value to the plot. Charan Raj's psychedelic score gets lost in this confusion, and cinematographer Shekhar's exaggerated angles and intense colours remind you of Suri's previous films as well.

Suri is one of Kannada's finest filmmakers of the neo-noir genre. Even if he never let go of his pet theme, he made gripping films in his prime. His big mark of improvement was *Kadipuddi*, in which he was brave enough to portray a hero with grey shades.

He cut loose from his reputation to make *Kendasampige*, a fantastic road thriller headlined by newcomers (Varun and Manvitha Kamath).

Tagaru was an excellent attempt at reinventing the *masala* genre with a star actor. But with *Popcorn Monkey Tiger* and *Bad Manners*, it appears he is back to his indulgent self, and the films show the perils of being caught in your own web.

Bad Manners is currently running in theatres

Glimpses of India's art history shine

Ruth Dhanaraj

Past to Present, an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by legendary names in the country, has come to Bengaluru courtesy Smita Art, a Kolkata-based art institution.

Coming to the city for the first time, Smita Art has presented works by great masters from different eras of India's art history. Aptly titled, Past to Present, the exhibition curated by Smita Chakraverty, Amartya Chakraverty and Amit Mitra, showcases the works of Bengal masters, Indian masters and contemporary artists.

According to Ajit Thakur from Smita Art who organised Past to Present, the purpose of this exhibition was to create an awareness about the wonderful works by various artists who are a part of India's legacy in the art world.

"For our first show in South India, we chose Bangalore over Mumbai or Hyderabad as it has a cosmopolitan crowd. We wanted to project art from different art periods – the past includes Bengal and Indian masters such as Rabindranath Tagore and MF Hussain, while the present showcases art by the likes of Sachin Sagare, Umakant Kannade and Paresh Hazra," says Ajit.

Timelessness on canvas A work of art by Dhiren Sashmal at Past to Present. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Since most of the works at the exhibition belong to private collections or Smita Art, many of the paintings are not for sale, adds Ajit. "These works are a part of our heritage so our aim was to show them here, as not many of these works have been displayed outside Kolkata," he says.

Sure enough, the walls adorned with works by some of the nation's art royalty – from sepia-tinted Roerich and aging Jamini Roy pieces to the bold strokes and colours by Tyeb Mehta and Murali Nagapuzha – are so entrancing, you'll find yourself lingering far longer than you thought you would. Acrylic on canvas works by Kaushik Paul and Amit Bhar put photographs to shame given the clarity of minute details such as a blade of grass or the rays of sunshine emanating from beyond the clouds.

Also on display at Past to Present are sculptures by Subrata Paul, Somnath Chakraborty and others. While bronze pieces such as Recharge and Security by Pradip Sur evoke thought, one can only marvel at the detailing on the bronze ghat miniatures crafted by Chandan Roy.

Since it is not always that one gets to view different facets of artistic brilliance at such close quarters, it would be a shame to miss out on Past to Present.

Past to Present by Smita Art, Kolkata, will be on display at Bangalore International Centre till November 28. Entry free.

Corrupt leaders will face punishment: PM

Giving a 'poll guarantee' to the people of Telangana, Modi says those involved in deals such as the Delhi liquor scam will be sent to jail; at an election rally in Toopran, he says only the BJP can make a BC leader Chief Minister of the State, and ensure representation for all classes in the Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
TOOPRAN/NIRMAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a "Modi guarantee" to the people of Telangana saying that those involved in corrupt deals such as the Delhi liquor scam would not be spared.

"Some people involved in the liquor scam are in jail and finding it difficult to get bail. Some people have changed mobile phones and taken payments. Investigations are on and the time will surely come when they will go to jail," he said on Sunday.

In his sharpest-ever attack on Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and his family during this election campaign, Mr. Modi told a public meeting in Toopran that Mr. Rao, after destroying Telangana, wanted to become a national leader and had joined hands with a corrupt party in Delhi. The result was the liquor scam.

Intense campaign: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a meeting at Toopran in Telangana on Sunday. MOHAMMAD ARIF

The Prime Minister said the BJP alone could enhance the prestige of Telangana, make a Backward Community (BC) leader Chief Minister, and ensure representation for all classes in the Cabinet.

"The BJP will form the government for sure. We will immediately construct houses for the poor and reduce fuel prices. This is *Modigari* guarantee, means it will be done. The INDIA bloc will be wiped out in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh," he said.

KCR running the most corrupt government: Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi went ballistic against Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, alleging that he was running the most corrupt government in the country.

"KCR Ji, how much money did you steal from Kaleshwaram?" he questioned the Chief Minister, while asking him why all major money-minting Ministries were with his family only. He was addressing public meetings in Andole and Sangareddy on Sunday. Countering Mr. Rao's question about what the Congress had done, Mr. Gandhi retorted with a volley of counter-questions involving the massive corruption prevailing in the State, which demanded answers. He asked why Mr. Rao had "snatched" the land of 20 lakh farmers through the Dharni portal and handed it over to his billionaire friends.

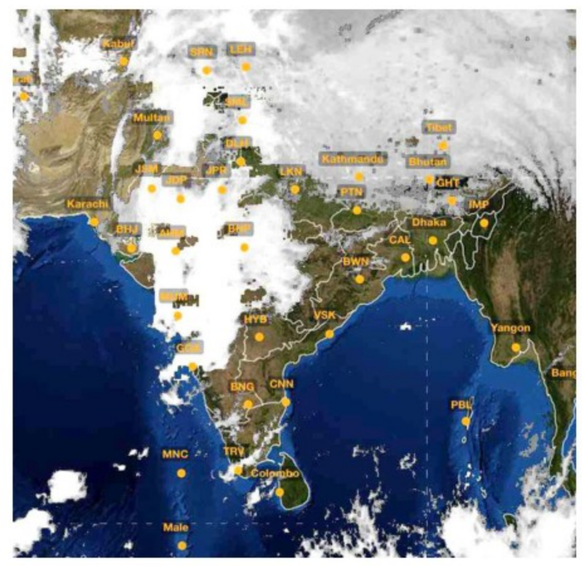
Rahul Gandhi

The Congress leader said there was massive unemployment and farmers were in distress as 8,000 farmers had committed suicide in the State under Mr. Rao's rule.

The combative Congress leader said that the BRS government in Telangana was his first target and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre was his next target to defeat.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning, gusty winds and hail very likely at isolated places over southwest Madhya Pradesh; Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.2	15.4	Kozhikode	—	35.0	25.8
Ahmedabad	13.9	23.3	21.7	Kurnool	—	31.5	22.6
Aizawl	—	28.4	14.2	Lucknow	—	28.2	13.5
Allahabad	—	27.9	11.4	Madurai	0.2	32.2	24.1
Bengaluru	—	27.1	18.8	Mangaluru	—	31.7	24.5
Bhopal	—	27.7	13.9	Mumbai	9.0	31.0	22.2
Bhubaneswar	—	29.2	17.8	Mysuru	—	29.0	24.2
Chandigarh	—	25.0	13.5	New Delhi	—	25.8	11.2
Chennai	0.3	30.7	26.1	Patna	—	29.3	14.2
Coimbatore	2.0	29.2	22.4	Port Blair	—	31.6	26.3
Dehradun	—	26.0	11.8	Puducherry	69.3	29.7	23.2
Gangtok	—	18.6	11.6	Pune	—	33.2	22.7
Goa	—	31.6	25.3	Raipur	—	30.4	16.5
Guwahati	—	30.0	14.0	Ranchi	—	26.6	11.9
Hubballi	—	29.0	20.0	Shillong	—	22.0	9.6
Hyderabad	—	28.7	22.6	Shimla	—	17.8	8.2
Imphal	—	30.7	9.3	Srinagar	—	11.9	0.0
Jaipur	—	25.0	15.9	Thiruvananthapuram	13.0	33.8	24.0
Kochi	1.0	33.0	25.0	Tiruchi	4.0	29.1	23.0
Kohima	—	18.8	8.5	Vijayawada	—	31.4	24.8
Kolkata	—	29.3	19.4	Visakhapatnam	—	30.8	22.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	.10	.24	137	113	
Bengaluru	9	.31	.40	56	110	
Chennai	7	—	.12	82	86	
Delhi	.16	.28	.51	466	468	
Hyderabad	8	124	.56	168	—	
Kolkata	.17	.65	.17	192	129	
Lucknow	7	.84	.87	328	257	
Mumbai	.20	.53	—	191	135	
Pune	127	203	112	184	114	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.32	.40	—	—	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 456 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Varsha's initiative in zero-waste management of banana plants receives widespread attention

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Little did Varsha, an MTech graduate from Oxford College of Engineering in Bengaluru, expect her modest initiative in zero waste management of banana plants at Ummattur in Chamarajanagar district would fetch her widespread attention and bring her eco-friendly handicraft and edible items under the media glare on Sunday.

Varsha is an MTech graduate. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Minutes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cited her example among the people who had started their own enterprise inspired by his monthly radio talk 'Mann Ki Baat', Ms. Varsha began receiving phone calls from media persons curious to know about her work.

Ms. Varsha told *The Hindu* she had heard about how a farmer from Tamil Nadu was coping with the waste management challenges during COVID-19 in one of the 'Mann Ki Baat' episodes and was motivated to take it up in her banana plantation at Ummattur.

"Even we faced a similar waste management problem in our banana plantation during the pandemic. So, I studied about how best can we make use of the trunk or stem of banana plant instead of discarding it as waste after harvesting the fruit," she said.

Instead of throwing the trunk of the plant after harvesting the bunch of bananas from it, Ms. Varsha's Aakruthi Eco Friendly Enterprises now produces not only handicraft items such as fibre purses, bags, yoga mats, tablemats, and pen stands and edible items such as pickles, juice, and candies but also organic fertilizer. "It is a zero-waste management of banana plants after harvest," she said.

While the fibre extracted from the outer part of the trunk is used for producing handicrafts, the inner core, also called the pseudo stem, is used for making edible items.

Ms. Varsha said her handicrafts products have buyers mostly from cities and she markets them through digital platforms. However, the edible products are mostly purchased by local villagers.

THE HINDU

EDUCATIONPLUS

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Driving research excellence

Fellowships play a pivotal role by offering a range of benefits that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the development of skilled professionals

Biju Dharmapalan

In higher education, marks/grades alone don't bring success. Along with learning the prescribed syllabus, students must enrich their biodata, which is the face a potential employer will look at.

Even without seeing the person, an employer will be able to shortlist candidates. Thus, an average biodata should showcase extra skills and achievements acquired during the period of study. Students need to include details of publications, workshops and conferences attended and so on.

In this context, fellowships and scholarships have great value and help prove that the candidate is skilled and meritorious. Even though both provide financial support, the former primarily focus on helping students with educational expenses, whereas fellowships encompass a broader range of purposes, including research, professional development, and advanced study at various stages. However, often these terms are used synonymously.

Fellowships are typically merit-based and awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional skills, expertise, or potential in their chosen area of study.

They often come with various benefits, which may include financial stipends, tuition coverage, travel allowances, health insurance, access to specialised resources, and networking opportunities.

Fellowships can be provided by various organisations, including universities, government agencies, non-profit foundations, and private institutions and may cover a range of fields, including academia, research, arts, sciences, humanities, healthcare, public policy, and more.

They are provided either for higher education (post-graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral studies), or for short-term training programmes or to attend conferences. In India, agencies like University Grants Commission (UGC), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR) and others provide fellowships for research and are popular among students. Apart from this, there are many national and international fellowships that help students pursue doctoral and post doctoral programmes and also provide assistance to training programmes.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Many fellowships foster a collaborative environment, enabling an exchange of ideas and approaches from different disciplines.

Fellowships play a pivotal role in research and academics, offering a range of benefits that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the development of skilled professionals. Among the various benefits are:

Financial support: This can be crucial for students and researchers to cover tuition fees, living expenses, and research-related costs. This financial stability allows individuals to focus on their work.

Facilitates research opportunities: Fellowships provide opportunities to engage in focused, independent research or academic projects and to delve deep into the chosen field, contributing new knowledge and insights. This can lead to discoveries, solutions, and innovations that address pressing challenges and benefit communities at large.

Encourages interdisciplinary collaboration: Many fellowships promote interdisciplinary work by bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. This fosters a collaborative environment, enabling an exchange of ideas and approaches from different disciplines.

Mentorship and guidance: Fellowships often come with mentorship components, connecting recipients with experienced researchers or faculty members. This provides guidance, advice, and a support system, as researchers navigate their academic and research journeys.

Networking opportunities: The facilitation of interactions with fellow recipients, faculty members, and experts in the field can lead to collaborations, future research partnerships, and access to a broader academic community.

Recognition: Being awarded a fellowship is a mark of recognition for a person's academic achievements and potential. It can enhance one's professional reputation and open doors to further opportunities.

Many fellowship programmes are committed to promoting diversity and inclusion by providing opportunities to individuals from underrepresented backgrounds. This helps to create a more inclusive and equitable research and academic community. Overall, fellowships play a crucial role in nurturing talent, driving research excellence, and advancing knowledge across various academic disciplines. They contribute significantly to the growth and progress of both individuals and the broader academic and research community.

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IMPORTANT FELLOWSHIPS

- **Chevening Fellowships** https://www.chevening.org/ fellowships/
- **Commonwealth Professional Fellowships** https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-professional-fellowships-information-for-candidates/
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Post-doctoral Fellowships** https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-doctoral-networks-2023
- **Lever Hulme International Fellowships** https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/international_fellowships
- **Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme for Doctoral Research** https://www.primeministerfellowshipscheme.in/
- **Innovation In Science Pursuit For Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Fellowship** https://online-inspire.gov.in/
- **Dr. D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Sciences, Medical Sciences & Engineering Sciences** https://dskpdf.ugc.ac.in/
- **Ramalingaswami Re-Entry Fellowship** https://rcb.res.in/RRF/

Close combat

Rajasthan CM is banking on welfare schemes in a keen contest

About three of four registered voters turned up to vote in the Assembly polls in Rajasthan on Saturday, a marginally higher proportion than in the 2018 elections and around the same as in 2013. Except for sporadic incidents of violence such as in Sikar, where minor stone-pelting was reported, the day passed peacefully. The last leg of campaigning in the State was fervent with both the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) making frequent complaints of violations of the model code of conduct by the other. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP blitzkrieg in the last stretch and played up the anger and dissatisfaction among the Gujjars, who are reportedly upset with the Congress for side-lining Sachin Pilot. Mr. Modi said that the party's treatment of Mr. Pilot, who had led an unsuccessful rebellion to replace Ashok Gehlot as Chief Minister in 2020, amounted to insulting the Gujjars. Sensing the line of attack by Mr. Modi, Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot closed ranks in the final days of campaign. Whether their laboured show of unity that sought to stem the resentment among the Gujjars against the Congress bears fruit will be known on December 3, when the votes are counted.

Mr. Gehlot's arsenal included his welfare regime, the centre piece of which is the promise of a health cover of ₹50 lakh to all; his stress on Rajasthani regional identity; and his call for communal amity in the State. The last day of campaigning saw Mr. Gehlot change his social media profile picture to one of him holding a map of Rajasthan close to his chest. This serves to underscore the importance of the State's language and culture, which, according to him, are threatened by the increasing dominance of the BJP's Hindutva politics that advances national uniformity across all fields of human activity. Mr. Gehlot attempted to break the electoral pattern of a State that has a habit of voting out the incumbent in each election. The BJP started with the advantage of the State's electoral pattern, and played the caste and religious cards to its advantage. It questioned the Congress's welfare plank and accused it of appeasing minorities. Mr. Modi brought up Congress ally DMK's critique of Sanatana Dharma as a "threat to Rajasthan's culture". The BJP remained confident of winning comfortably, entirely on the strength of Mr. Modi's popularity and its Hindutva plank. Whatever may be the outcome, the two national parties will have learned a lot from an intense contest in Rajasthan.

Far-right turn

The rising tide of ethno-nationalist politics in Europe is worrying

The victory of Geert Wilders, a far-right, anti-Islam populist, in the parliamentary elections has put the Netherlands, long seen as one of the most socially liberal countries in Europe, at a crossroads. According to the preliminary results, Mr. Wilders's Party for Freedom (PVV) has emerged as the single largest party with 37 seats in the 150-member lower house. The Labour-Green coalition won 25 seats, while the incumbent People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) secured 24. While the PVV is far from the 76 seats needed for a majority, its formidable performance (it won three more seats than what the VVD won in the last elections) puts Mr. Wilders in a position to start coalition talks and on a potential path towards becoming the country's first far-right Prime Minister. Over the years, Mr. Wilders has built an image of himself as one of the most radical far-right populists in Europe. He has called for "de-Islamising" the Netherlands, shutting down mosques, banning the Koran, and closing the borders to migrants from Muslim-majority countries. He made the influx of migrants a strong political issue during the campaign, which appears to have helped him deal the greatest blow to the political establishment.

The PVV's victory is neither surprising nor isolated. Mr. Wilders, a member of the House of Representative since 1998, split from the conservative VVD in 2004 to form the PVV. Since then, he has been pushing his brand of populism in Dutch politics. In the past, the VVD, led by outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte, avoided tying up with the PVV because of the latter's controversial views. But by grabbing the highest number of seats in the House, the PVV has now placed itself at the centre of Dutch politics. It is not certain whether Mr. Wilders will be able to put together a governing coalition. But even if he is kept out of power, the leader of the largest party in Parliament cannot be ignored. His rise is in line with the rise of far-right parties and populists across Europe. In France, Marine Le Pen finished a close second in the 2022 presidential elections. In Italy, a party with neo-fascist origins is in power. In Germany, the AfD, which has neo-Nazi roots, is the second most popular party. This should be a wake-up call for the establishment parties in the West. The far-right is using the immigration and the cost-of-living crises to mobilise the public under its exclusive, ethno-nationalist brand of politics, while the political centre is struggling to hold. Establishment parties should have a clear economic agenda and political vision to arrest the rising tide of far-right politics, which echoes Europe's dangerous and not-so-distant past.

Old censorship on a new medium

Apar Gupta
is an Advocate and public policy professional

On November 12, as India woke up to celebrate Deepavali, an under-construction tunnel collapsed in the early hours of the morning in Uttarakhand, trapping 41 workers. The Silkyara tunnel, about 30 km from the district headquarters, is part of the ambitious Char Dham all-weather road project of the Central government; it is being built to ease the journey of pilgrims to Uttarkashi's Yamunotri shrine. On November 24, more than 10 days after the workers were sealed into the tunnel, the effort to free them faced a major setback.

From the day of the tunnel's collapse, newspapers have been publishing detailed reports on rescue efforts. On the other hand, television coverage of the incident during the initial days was sparse. The Uttarkashi tunnel collapse poses troubling questions on environmental clearances, and faulty public works and civil contracting, all of which directly impact human lives. This is perhaps why news channels did not dare to cover the incident or host "debates" questioning the government. This silence was broken only when the prolonged captivity of the workers could not be ignored for long. Television news coverage peaked when rescue efforts began to bear fruit, and the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and the Union Minister for Roads visited the site. A story of gross negligence transformed into a story of a heroic rescue.

The control tower

This narrative change by television media is achieved due to a mix of ideological partisanship, economic models, threats, and the regulation of the media and entertainment landscape. This is a regular feature of a command-and-control media landscape. Even popular culture, such as movies and television shows, is scrubbed of "bad words" and "controversial themes".

The engine of censorship has been overhauled for the digital age, as the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill shows

REUTERS

The answer to breaking this lack of media diversity in news and general entertainment has been the Internet. As per this year's FICCI-KPMG Frames report, TV is still the primary medium beamed in approximately 165 million homes. But growth is slowing, as per Nielsen's India Internet Report of 2023: for instance, at least 85 million viewers in rural India share smartphones and huddle together to stream YouTube videos. The government knows this and is erecting a censorship system for everything you watch online. This control tower for it is called the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023.

On November 10, the Ministry for Information and Broadcasting released a copy of the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill. On the Ministry's website, this Bill finds space right below an advisory to TV channels and self-regulatory bodies on the Uttarkashi tunnel collapse. As per Union Minister Anurag Thakur, the principal objective of the Bill is to achieve "the Prime Minister's vision" through specific provisions that "modernise" and "replace outdated" laws. Greater reasoning is contained in a Press Information Bureau release that notes an intention to repeal the "three decades-old" Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

Increasing government powers

However, as has been noticed in other legal proposals such as the Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022 or even the more recent set of three "Bharatiya" criminal justice proposals, there is continuity on core legal principles. Changes, if present, only serve to increase government powers, reduce transparency and accountability processes, and erode fundamental rights. There is little "modernisation"; the anxieties of the 1990s have been elevated by an authoritarian state that tries to use digital technologies to make us celebrate and outrage at its command.

The Cable Act was the product of a legislative vacuum prompted by a High Court ruling, security concerns from Pakistani channels, and a "cultural invasion" in which channels such as Fashion TV broadcast female nudity. It manifested in a regulatory system not only requiring registrations and licensing for standardisation, service quality, or demarcation of shared resources, but content regulation to protect "Indian values". It is always difficult to define "Indian values", but the government censors tried their best though a "programme code". The code says no programme should be carried which "offends good taste or decency", "contains suggestive innuendos", and "ironical and snobbish attitudes", etc. The job of enforcing these was retained by the Central government through, finally, the Inter-Ministerial Committee. There was much to fear as a channel's license could be revoked after three violations or the 'three strike rule'. The Inter-Ministerial Committee lacked diversity as it was packed with government bureaucrats. Its decision-making lacked transparency and it was clearly partisan.

The private sector had a solution for this and it was called self-regulation. Here, each broadcaster would first establish internal self-censorship checks through codes of practice that define what is "good taste" and promote offended viewers to complain to it first. If viewers were still dissatisfied, it could be escalated to the self-regulatory body, and eventually the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

This tiered system over time met with informal approval. Then, it became codified as rules under the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules in 2021. Based on an empirical and qualitative assessment of self-regulatory actions in 2013, in an article titled 'Table of Discontents' in the Caravan magazine, I had cast "serious doubt about the presumption that self-regulation is a sort of benevolent liberal alternative to state sanction." While such a censorship system restricts "safe" and "family" themed broadcast (a soap or serial drama), it offers little to no check on prime-time anchors in attacking minorities or in their partisan defence of the Union government. This has made television content in India arid and putrid at the same time.

No wonder, viewers and creative professionals switched to digital platforms for news and entertainment. Since it disturbs the authoritarian apparatus, the Union government first tried regulation through the Information Technology Rules, 2021, which was stayed by the High Courts of Madras and Bombay. It then made further amendments to the Information Technology Rules for creating a censorship for "fact checking". This has not come into force due to a challenge in the Bombay High Court, which will soon give its verdict.

More powers

The Broadcasting Bill retains all of these powers and makes them worse. It requires registrations from, and adherence to the programme code, by not only online broadcasters, but even individual journalists and creators who systematically comment on "news and current affairs". It establishes a system of self-certification where the names of the members of committees for each broadcaster will be made public. This will make them open to online and real world threats. Worse, there are vast and unguided powers without any anchoring criteria for the Union government to make rules. Even the Broadcasting Advisory Council is packed with government bureaucrats. The Broadcasting Advisory Council is a mere change in title for the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The Council does not have power to make decisions but only advise the Union government. The engine of censorship has been overhauled for the digital age and is driven by the "the Prime Minister's vision".

Fleet electrification to tackle urban pollution

Rajesh Gupta
is a research scholar. Views are personal

Joseph Teja
is a research scholar. Views are personal

The air quality index (AQI) in many Indian cities has entered the red zone several days this year. Millions of people have to face serious health hazards due to recurring increases in air pollution. It is clear that mitigation strategies have to be prioritised. As per two seminal studies pertaining to Delhi, the Urban Emission (2015) and the TERI study (2018), a significant contributor to urban smog is PM2.5 and PM10 pollution, which is caused by the transport and construction sector.

Increase in truck fleet

About 9 lakh new trucks are added to Indian roads every year to an already running fleet of 70 lakh trucks. India carries over 2 trillion tonne kilometres freight on trucks, annually. These trucks consume over one-fourth of Indian oil imports and contribute to over 90% of road transport CO2 emissions. The rate of increase of truck fleet is expected to keep increasing in a growing network of roads in an emerging economy. If all these new trucks are powered by diesel-fired internal combustion engines vehicles, as is the case today, our cities will face a greater onslaught of PM2.5 pollution.

Thankfully, India has already electrified rail freight transportation, but that caters to only about 20% of the freight carried in the country.

The focus must extend to diesel trucks and dust mitigation

On roads, India's electric vehicle penetration rate has crossed the 6% mark, but electric trucks remain a challenge due to upfront costs and charging infrastructure constraints. It is commendable that the government is aggressively electrifying the bus fleet, and sets electrification targets for bus aggregators. However, the focus must extend to diesel trucks and dust mitigation – significant PM sources requiring immediate attention. This is important both from an energy security perspective and sustainability perspective.

Need of the hour

In this era of urgency, where every breath counts, deploying solutions swiftly is paramount. The recent demand for 7,750 e-trucks in India by 2030, if it materialises, will result in the country saving over 800 billion litres of diesel till 2050. However, the Indian truck fleet is likely to reach a figure of 1.7 crore in 2050. Hence, there is a need to push top gear on the pace of transition to e-trucks. Public funding alone cannot meet the transformational scale required. A pipeline of bankable projects, effectively structured, which can attract private and institutional capital at a ratio of at least six rupees for every rupee of public money is the need of the hour.

Though the victory achieved (more than 50% electric vehicle penetration) in three-wheelers' electrification in India is an important milestone for the 2070 net zero agenda, transport sector decarbonisation pathways have to be led by truck electrification. However, the upfront cost of a mid-range electric truck in India is around ₹1.5 crore compared to about ₹40 lakh for a diesel truck. This and the cost of charging logistics remain major hurdles in the transition to e-trucks in the country.

Green freight corridors

Declaring some of the expressways and national highways as green freight corridors will have a demonstration effect in the country. Accelerating feasibility studies, demand aggregation, supplier readiness, and a prudent risk allocation strategy are required to create green freight corridors in India. Such corridors can first evolve in small stretches of 500 kilometres on routes with heavy truck movement. Innovative financial instruments, incentivisation of charging infrastructure, facilitation of entrepreneurial efforts, and a conducive regulatory environment in the country can bring forth the much-needed breakthrough for truck electrification in India. We must realise the urgency of the need to take such concerted efforts if we want a fresh breath of life in our cities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waiting for light

It is disappointing that the rescue operation in Uttarkashi has faced a major setback ("Rescue 'dangerous,' may take a 'long time': NDMA", Nov. 26). Man may be powerful, but he cannot always control nature. Let us hope all the workers are rescued safely.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

Despite several experts expressing apprehensions of constructing a tunnel in the fragile Himalayan region, the government went ahead with it. This episode has come on the heels of the floods and landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These incidents remind us that if we fight against nature just to reduce travel time, we will suffer the consequences.

Prabhu Raj R.
Bengaluru

Stampede in Kochi

Every time there is a stampede in India, questions about precautionary measures and crowd management tactics arise ("Four students killed, 61 injured in stampede at Cochin University fest", Nov. 26). However, such measures are seldom taken, which is why we see this incidents happening again and again, whether at music and dance shows, festivals and processions, or fairs. There is little accountability.

M. Pradyu
Kannur

The stampede underscores the importance of comprehensive safety planning and risk assessment for all mass gatherings. Event organisers must take into account the potential for overcrowding, especially in enclosed spaces or when the crowd gets excited. They must ensure that adequate emergency exits and medical facilities are readily available. In the case of the CUSAT incident, the sudden downpour that triggered the stampede highlights the need for contingency plans to address unpredictable weather conditions. The investigation into the CUSAT stampede must be thorough and transparent. The findings of this investigation should serve as a blueprint for improving safety standards at all future gatherings.

E.K. Hydru
Kozhikode

Stray dog menace

There are many stories these days of stray dogs attacking people ("Chennai Corporation to begin mass immunisation of one lakh dogs after five cases of rabies detected this year in Chennai", Nov. 26). Not just Tamil Nadu, but all governments must take measures to improve sterilisation and vaccination numbers. This is a matter of life and death.

A.P. Thiruvadi
Chennai

Caste-based violence

Despite laws and commissions, caste-related violence persists ("21-year-old Dalit assaulted in Gujarat for asking salary"" Nov. 24). This is not a one-off case. While political parties talk often about reservation and a caste census, which are important, little is known about what happens to such perpetrators. Justice should be expeditious in such cases. It is clear that attitudes must change, but only swift punishment will ensure that this doesn't happen again and again.

Avinash Godboley
Dewas

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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Moulding the Himalayas needs caution

Tikender Singh Panwar

is an urban practitioner, author, and a former directly elected Deputy Mayor of Shimla

As the efforts to evacuate 41 workers trapped in a tunnel near Silkyara in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand are weeks away from fruition, the infrastructure development trajectory in the Himalayas comes under serious clouds – once again. Can the current model of widening roads, rampant construction of hydropower projects, and the unbridled impetus for tourism be a sustainable way of development? The Char Dham Project, all-weather roads, being constructed by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in Uttarakhand, linking the four religious pilgrimages of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, and Kedarnath, has brought into focus two major issues in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

The foremost one is about the development model itself and, in concrete terms, what should be the carrying capacity of the IHR. Also important are the processes in which environment clearances were sought, undermining safety protocols, and a new form of architecture that should be built to construct and monitor infrastructure projects, if at all they are desired, in the region. The irony is that the flash floods of 2013 in Uttarakhand are suggested as the reason for the construction of the Char Dham Yatra. In a way, a tragedy becomes a source for many tragedies in the offing! In 2016 the Prime Minister announced that the Surface Transport Minister was acting like Shravan Kumar, a character in Ramayan who took his blind parents to pilgrimage. Likewise, the Minister is constructing these connections between the four holy towns. Not realising that this is against the wishes of nature.

Against nature

One of the major problems in this project is in accepting the fact that the Himalayas are the youngest range of mountains and still in the formative stages. Geological and geotechnical studies make the point clear that this is a dangerous project and fatality-induced. The Main Central Thrust of the Himalayas passes a few kilometres north of the incident site, scientists have pointed out in the past as well. This means the area is extremely sensitive to earthquakes and frictional shear rocks are present as well. Constructing in this zone is dangerous.

Now, the NHAI has said it is going to conduct a detailed inspection of 29 tunnels in the country for further safety and avoiding accidents. It is highly paradoxical on their part that wisdom is dawning on them when the lives of 41 workers are at risk and this simply shows the habitual monumental callousness and slumber of the bureaucracy.

The sheer frenzy in going about constructions and projects in the region has led to a situation where even the basics of mountain construction codes have been set aside. The Environment Impact Assessment has not been taken seriously. Take for example the Char Dham Project, which is around 900 km long and should have a single EIA. However, the project was broken into 53 sections so that the EIA is prepared for a lesser region. The impact exhibited would also be lesser than for a large ecosystem of 900 km.

Carrying capacity in the IHR

The Supreme Court of India has already seized on the matter on the issue of carrying capacity in the Himalayas. Now is the time when the apex court should push for a dialogue on it. The carrying capacity cannot just be limited to the number of people an ecosystem can sustain; it also has to take into cognisance the total carrying capacity of the IHR from the infrastructure aspect. How many hydropower projects can the region sustain? How much tourism? How many roads? How much widening of the roads should be allowed? How much cutting of the mountains and dumping of the debris in the water ecosystem is good?

The IHR is in a transformative phase and the impetus for this transformation unfortunately comes from the new geographies. There are spatial and temporal changes that go beyond the scope and spaces of the Himalayan aesthetic, culture, and building typologies. Sheer integration with the rest is not the way of sustaining them. Month after month, the IHR is facing tragedies that are colossal and irreparable.

Safety protocols

In this scenario, there is also an exception and that is in the construction of the Atal tunnel in the Kullu, and Lahaul & Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh. The executing company was so particular in implementing safety measures that not a single casualty has been reported in its construction. They would not allow the workers to enter the tunnel unless all the protocols were followed and checked.

Likewise, international protocols and monitoring processes should be adopted. A new legislative architecture – that allows people to monitor these projects and ensures that geological experts are part of every move – is required. The local communities should be an essential part of these monitoring structures with strict protocols. Likewise, civil society groups and community-driven organisations should be included.

As far as the Himalayas are concerned, the NHAI must realise that they are making roads on soil and mountains and not on drawing boards in their offices. While they have accepted that they are learning from their failures, this should not have happened in the first place. The BRO and even the PMGSY have a better protocol of construction, where a certain period is allowed for stability. Whereas the overemphasis on meeting targets without stability and safety standards is further accentuating the disaster proneness.

The Uttarkashi tunnel collapse has thrown light on the major flaws in the infrastructure development in the Indian Himalayan Region

All eyes on Nava Kerala Sadas

LDF's outreach programme becomes the cause of UDF criticism and censure

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
biju.govind@thehindu.co.in

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Cabinet colleagues are on a 44-day tour of the State to hear the public directly, interact with opinion leaders of different political hues, and allow elected representatives to flag the issues of their constituents directly with the Council of Ministers.

The high-profile public outreach programme, titled "Nava Kerala Sadas", which roughly translates as "People's Assembly for a Modern Kerala", kicked off in the Kasaragod district on November 1. It will conclude in Thiruvananthapuram, on December 23.

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition has boycotted the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's political odyssey from the corridors of power in the government secretariat to the town halls of the common folk.

The UDF has termed the Nava Kerala Sadas a thinly veiled pre-Lok Sabha election campaign masquerading as a mass contract programme, bankrolled by a depleted public exchequer and winched up by the State's government machinery.

Not far away from the Nava Kerala Sadas venues, black flag protests, inter-party street violence, political rancour, and hard-edged partisan verbal tit-for-tats characterised the Cabinet's progress.

Leader of Opposition V. D. Satheesan termed the Cabinet's outreach elitist of scarce consequence. He alleged Mr. Vijayan remained inaccessible to the public. Nava Kerala Sadas appeared elitist compared

to the late Chief Minister Oommen Chandy's mass contact programme in 2013. "Chandy had received petitions personally from the public and delivered relief hours on end," he said. In contrast, Mr. Satheesan alleged, Mr. Vijayan's campaign to win the hearts and minds of the people of Kerala seemed limited to breakfast meetings with businesspersons and a few local notables.

Mr. Satheesan compared Nava Kerala Sadas to royal durbars held by colonial rulers. Only courtiers and royal retainers had access to the king. The public could only watch the royal spectacle mutedly and from afar.

The Congress averred that the government had scarce funds to disburse relief. It accused the administration of ferrying school children, teachers, party cadres, social welfare workers and government employees to show numbers at sparsely attended Nava Kerala Sadas venues.

The party has moved the court against the government's decision to mobilise "own funds" of cash-strapped Local Self Government Institutions (LSGI) to underwrite Nava Kerala Sadas meetings.

Mr. Vijayan also came under fire for "defending" CPI (M) workers who "attacked" Congress black flag protestors in Kannur. The LDF has accused Congress of fomenting anarchic street violence to retard the momentum of Nava Kerala Sadas. It saw a political victory in the decision of a few Congress-ruled LSGIs to allocate funds for Nava Kerala Sadas. It also tom-tommed the presence of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and Church leaders, traditionally aligned with the Congress, at Nava Kerala Sadas breakfast meetings and on the dais with Mr. Vijayan. The government also glimpsed optimism in IUML leader P. K. Kunhalikutty's disavowal of belligerent street protests against the programme.

For one, Congress saw a moral victory in the High Court's criticism of lining up students on the street or ferrying them to public venues for government programmes. (A video showing school children lined up on the road in Kannur as the luxury coach carrying the Cabinet swept by had drawn harsh public criticism).

The Congress also fears that the LDF is using the Cabinet's public outreach as a subtle political lure to blur the line between the opposing alliance to wring a political advantage in the Lok Sabha polls. It is highlighting the State's alleged LDF-made financial crisis, failure to disburse welfare pensions and dearness allowance to government employees, pending payments to paddy farmers, debt-driven farmer suicides, rubber sector crisis, seller inflation and corruption in mega infrastructure projects.

Nava Kerala Sadas is leaving a slipstream of positive and negative perceptions as it meanders on through the State and seems potent to set off a political churning in the coming days. It has strained, if not turned toxic, the government-Opposition relationship and underscored the need for civic and democratic discourse in politics.

Femicides at a twenty-year peak across globe

In India, dowry-related reasons continue to be the leading cause of femicide

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team
CHENNAI

About 88,900 women and girls were intentionally killed worldwide on the grounds of gender-related factors in 2022, a recent study from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women shows. This is the highest number of such fatalities in a year, in the past 20 years. **Chart 1** shows the year-wise murder of women/girls (femicide) across the globe for gender-related reasons.

The UN study titled "Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)", published in November, also showed that while the total number of homicides worldwide decreased in 2022, femicide increased.

In general, victims of homicides worldwide tend to be men or boys. As shown in **Chart 2**, men formed 80% of the total victims of homicide in 2022, while women's share was 20%. When the data is examined based on the perpetrators of these murders, a significant disparity becomes evident between female and male victims. Women are more likely to be murdered by their partners or someone known to them. This extends from the fact that women are subjected to physical violence mostly from their immediate family members.

Chart 3 shows that of the 88,900 female victims of homicides in 2022, 48,800 or 55% were killed by family members or intimate partners. Only 12% of male homicide victims were killed by persons known to them.

This trend of women being more vulnerable to gender-related violence by family is prevalent across the globe. **Chart 4** shows the continent-wise split of the share of intimate partner/family-related homicides among all female and male homicides. Across all regions, the share of such homicides among women in which perpetrators are known was higher than in the case of men. For instance, in over half the female homicides in Europe, the perpetrators are partners or related to the victims, whereas among men the share was only 18%. In the Americas, too, the disparity showed (45% among women homicides and 12% among men homicides).

In 2022, there were about 20,000 female victims of intimate partner/family-related homicide in Africa, the highest among continents. The African continent exceeded Asia in femicides for the first time in 13 years. In Asia, 18,400 women were killed by their families during the same period. Notably, while the Americas reported 7,900 such cases, the rate of such femicides per 100,000 female population was 1.5, making it the second-highest after Africa, which had a rate of 2.8. Asia's rate was 0.8.

Data also suggests that there was a general trend of reduction in gender-related killings of women before 2021, though it increased drastically in 2021 and 2022, especially in Africa.

According to three national studies conducted in South Africa across 18 years, the female intimate partner homicide rate halved between 1999 and 2017. But in recent years, the rate increased from 9 victims per 1 lakh women in 2019 to 12.7 victims per 1 lakh women at the end of 2022.

There has been a small decline in gender-based killings in India over the past decade. That said, the killing of women due to dowry-related reasons, accusations of witchcraft and other gender-related factors still persists.

Chart 5 shows the number of gender-related deaths in India between 2016-2021 and the reasons behind it. Dowry has consistently been the leading cause, while honour killings and murder related to witchcraft accusations, formed a small share too during this period.

Women in the cross hairs

The data for the charts were sourced from the report titled, "Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)" published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women

Chart 1: The chart shows the year-wise intentional murder of women/girls across the globe for gender-related reasons

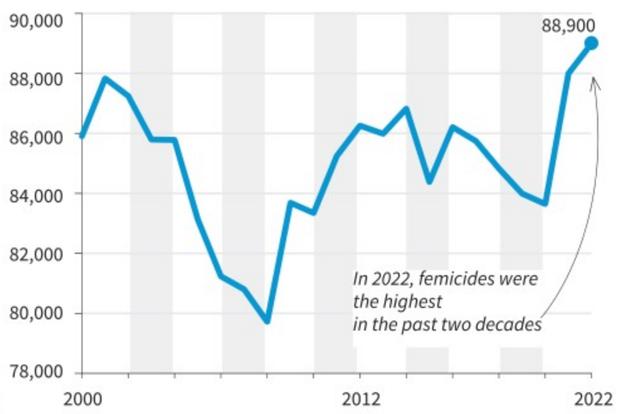


Chart 2: The chart shows male and female share of homicide victims. In general, victims of homicides worldwide tend to be men or boys

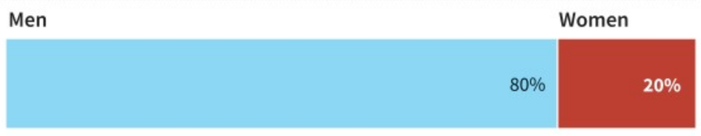


Chart 3: The chart shows the share of intimate partner/family-related homicides among all female and male homicides

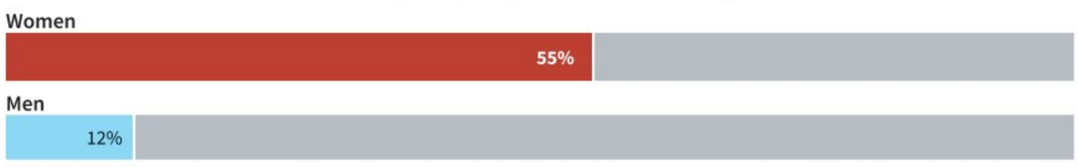


Chart 4: The chart shows the continent-wise split of the share of intimate partner/family-related homicides among all female and male homicides

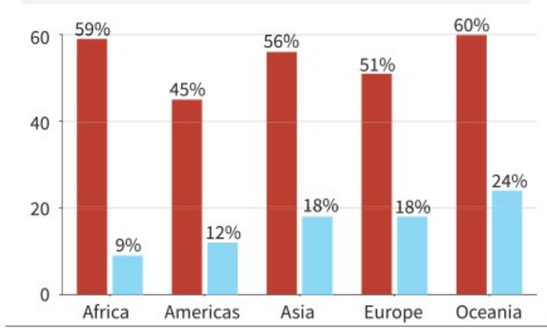
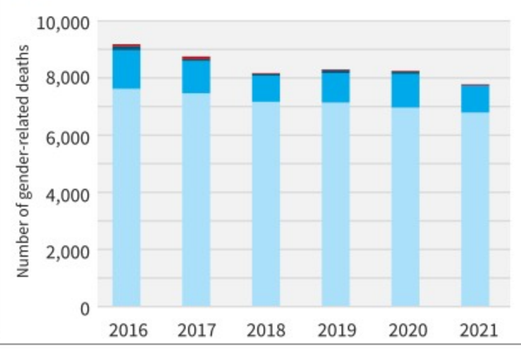


Chart 5: The chart shows the number of gender-related deaths in India between 2016-2021 and the reasons behind it



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 27, 1973

Half A Million Greet Brezhnev in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Nov. 26. A truly magnificent reception, which could well be the envy of any other world leader, was accorded to the Soviet Communist Party Chief, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, when he arrived in Delhi to-day on a four-day visit to place Indo-Soviet friendship on a still stronger foundation.

All along the 16-kilometre route of the ceremonial drive from the airport to Rashtrapati Bhavan, he was cheered lustily by an estimated half a million people who waited patiently for a long time in the pleasant winter sunshine to greet him.

It was, indeed, an authentic cross section of the Indian people ranging from humble farmers who had come from distant villages to the sophisticated political elite in the capital which turned up in full strength irrespective of party affiliations to place itself at the forefront of this popular welcome to the leader of a great and friendly nation that stood by India during the Bangladesh conflict.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 27, 1923

The Enquiry Committee

BOMBAY, Nov. 23. The Bombay Stock Exchange Committee yesterday examined Mr. B.F. Madan of Messrs. Tata Sons Ltd; he was very emphatic in his condemnation of the present state of affairs of the Bombay stock exchange and suggested the creation of a Governing body composed of four brokers and five others representing important commercial interests to control the affairs of the Stock exchange. He declared that all this time the local Stock exchange had acted in the ease of corners in a manner to save the defaulting short sellers. Their pretension that they had fixed prices in order to save investors was gross hypocrisy.

Mr. Shroff's Evidence

BOMBAY, Nov. 23. Giving evidence before the Stock Exchange Committee to-day Mr. Shroff, President of the Bombay Stock Exchange, did not officially examine the state of affairs on the different companies whose scrips were sold on exchange. Referring to corner he said a large number of people were misled by forced up prices to deal in certain shares and the Board had to interfere by declaration of corner.

From Page One

Silkyara: rescuers set a vertical drilling target

The Indian Army too has stepped in for the rescue operation. In Delhi, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) member Lieutenant-General Syed Ata Hasnain said that a unit of Madras Sappers, part of the Corps of Engineers of the Army, will now help in the operations.

"For manual drilling, the Indian Army along with other rescuers will do rat-boring inside the tunnel. They will dig out the debris from inside the tunnel with hands, hammers and chisels and then a pipe will be pushed forward from the platform built inside the pipe," he added.

The NDMA member added that the horizontal drilling from the Barkot side of the tunnel also moved a little on Sunday with rescue teams covering a little over 10 metres after the fifth blast which was done inside the tunnel. The perpendicular drilling by the RVNL is yet to start but machines for the same are on their way.

On November 12, the under-construction tunnel from Silkyara to Barkot collapsed as debris fell on a 60-metre stretch on the Silkyara side. Initially, authorities opted to insert a 900-mm pipe through the debris, but safety concerns led to the exploration of multiple rescue options simultaneously. The area of entrapment, measuring 8.5 metres in height and 2 kilometres in length, is the built-up portion of the tunnel, offering safety to the labourers with available electricity and water supply.

SC has always acted as 'people's court': CJI

"Citizens came to the court to seek protection of their personal liberty, accountability against unlawful arrest, protection of rights of bonded labourers, asking for guidelines to prevent sexual harassment at workplace, prevention of social evils such as manual scavenging, even hoping for interference to get clean air, food security, and so many more instances that cannot be summarised in few minutes. These cases are not just citations or statistics for the court. These cases resemble the expectations of the people from the Supreme Court, as well as the court's own commitment to deliver justice to the citizens," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

The Chief Justice said the focus of the court has been on making its work accessible to all free of cost.

Besides live-streaming proceedings so that citizens know what is happening inside courtrooms, the Chief Justice said 36,068 of its judgments, as of November 25, 2023, are available for free on the e-Supreme Court Reports (e-SCR) platform of the court. Launching e-SCR (Hindi), the CJI said 21,388 judgments have been translated into Hindi, vetted, and uploaded on the e-SCR portal.

Besides, 9,276 judgments have been translated into other Indian languages including Punjabi, Tamil, Gujarati, Marathi, Telugu, Odia, Malayalam, Bengali, Kannada, Assamese, Nepali, Urdu, Garo, Khasi, and Konkani. These judgments have also been uploaded to the e-SCR portal.

CAA rules likely by March, says Minister

The delay in framing CAA rules had irked a section of Matuas, even the MLAs from the community representing the BJP. After the 2019 polls, a number of BJP leaders had been trying to allay the fears of Matuas regarding the delay in the implementation of the CAA. Earlier this year, the Home Ministry was granted an extension for the seventh time to frame the rules for the CAA.

Mr. Thakur, a descendent of the founders of the Matua sect, won the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Bongaon on the promise of providing citizenship to the members of the community. The Matuas, a community comprising Hindu Namasudras, many of whom have migrated from Bangladesh (East Pakistan earlier), will be the deciding factor in large parts of south Bengal during the Lok Sabha election and the issue of rules of the CAA remains crucial to their support.

The Trinamool Congress leadership, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has been claiming that the CAA was a farce as everyone residing in the State is a citizen.

Peace talks on with insurgent group: Biren

Asked about newspapers going off the stands in Imphal and local TV channels being off the air, Mr. Singh said he had come to know about it only on Saturday. He said he has already sought a report from the police.

On Myanmarese people crossing over to Manipur for shelter, Mr. Singh said that though India was not a party to the UN Refugee Convention, some people were being given refuge in the State on humanitarian grounds. "However, they will be deported once the situation is stable in Myanmar," he said.

Till July, nearly 2,500 Myanmarese people had crossed over to Manipur and had been living in different parts of the State. The number had been on the rise after fresh violence in the neighbouring country.

President Murmu calls for all-India judicial service

She says such a system can offer opportunities to less-represented social groups, adds that varied representation of India's unique diversity on Bench and Bar will help serve cause of justice better

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday called for the setting up of an all-India judicial service as a way to ensure equal representation of India's diversity in the judiciary, stressing that the cause of justice was best served by making it accessible to all.

Ms. Murmu was speaking at an event at the Supreme Court to mark Constitution Day. The event saw the unveiling of a statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the court complex.

In her remarks, the President said, "More varied representation of India's unique diversity on Bench and Bar definitely helps serve the cause of justice better. One way to hasten this diversification process can be the creation of a system in which judges can be recruited from varied backgrounds through a process which is merit-based, competitive and transparent."

She added that there could possibly be an all-India judicial service, which would be able to select "brilliant youngsters from across the country and nurture and promote their talent from lower levels to higher levels" to create a larger pool of talent. She said, "Such a system can offer opportunities to the less-represented social groups too."

President Droupadi Murmu and Chief Justice D. Y. Chandrachud during a Constitution Day event in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Cost, language barriers

Ms. Murmu also stressed the cause of making justice accessible in the country, saying that even now barriers such as cost and language came in the way of making this a reality.

She proposed a "citizen-centric approach" to improve access to justice. "Our systems have been products of time; more precisely, products of colonialism. Clearing away its vestiges has been a work in progress," she said.

Ms. Murmu said the rest of the de-colonisation could be sped up with conscious efforts.

On the Constitution, the President said, "The values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity are the principles on which we have agreed to conduct ourselves as a nation. These values helped us win Independence. It is no wonder these find a special mention in the Preamble and continue to guide our nation-building efforts."

A model

She added that the Constitution was only a written document and that it came alive and remained alive only if it contents were put into practice. The President appreciated the Supreme Court for exercising its role as the final interpreter of the Constitution to perfection.

"This court's Bar and Bench have constantly raised the standards of jurisprudence. Their legal acumen and scholarship have been par excellence. Like our Constitution, our Supreme Court too has been a model for many other nations. With a vibrant judiciary, the health of our democracy is never going to be a cause of concern," she said.

Parliament supreme, says Dhankhar on Constitution Day

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jagdeep Dhankhar

The supremacy of Parliament as the sole architect of the Constitution is unquestionable, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Sunday. He quoted Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to insist that the Constitution was meant not just to define the organs of the state but also to define the limits to their powers.

He said that "any incursion in the exclusive domain of the Parliament will be constitutional aberration, apart from being antithetical to democratic essence and values".

Mr. Dhankhar was speaking at a Law Ministry event at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi to celebrate Constitution Day.

The comments come even as the Union government has publicly taken issue with the running of the higher judiciary – specifically the appointment of judges through the collegium system.

The Vice-President also underlined the supremacy of Parliament in India's constitutional structure, and called it the "soul of democracy".

He said, "The Executive survives only if it has strength in the Parliament. I don't want to be a loudmouth; but the other institution also survives only when it is sanctified by Parliament."

Mr. Dhankhar also went on to acknowledge that it was only natural for the three institutions to have differences in opinions, but called for a mechanism to resolve these "without having to bring them in the public domain" – saying he intended to be working on such a system.

The Vice-President also credited the "wisdom of Prime Minister Narendra Modi" and the "sagacious approach of Home Minister Amit Shah" for the Union government's move on Article 370.

Kharge flags 'systematic attack' on the Constitution by BJP, RSS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, commemorating the 74th Constitution Day on Sunday, accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of using every trick in their textbook to crush and curtail freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. In a statement posted on X, Mr. Kharge said every citizen should question the attack on the ethos and values of the Constitution and described it as a "lifeline of our Democracy".

"As we observe and celebrate the 74th Constitution Day, we bow in utmost reverence to its makers – for they guaranteed the social, economic and political rights of every Indian. Today, the spirit of our Constitution, faces numerous challenges," the Congress chief noted.

"Dissent is being subjugated and criminalised, institutions are being pushed to the brink of becoming pawns in the grand game of imposing an authoritarian system, hate is being served under the garb of social changes," he added.

"The systematic and strident attack on the Constitution by the BJP and the RSS is visible in the rampant misuse of every nut and bolt of the government machinery," Mr. Kharge added. The Congress chief warned that the nation could reach a tipping point "where social justice and harmony shall become a casualty and the rights of the weaker sections would be gradually seized".

Noting the contributions of Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, K.M. Munshi, Sarojini Naidu, Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and several others, the Congress chief said it was time to stand up to the politics of division and hate.

India 'absolutely' not involved in Nijjar's killing, says envoy

Press Trust of India
OTTAWA

Sanjay Kumar Verma

India was "absolutely" and "decidedly" not involved in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and Ottawa has "convicted" New Delhi even before the completion of the investigation, India's High Commissioner here Sanjay Kumar Verma has said. The remarks came during an interview with *CTV News*.

Canada and India witnessed strains in ties following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia. India has rejected Mr. Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

Mr. Verma was asked why India was not cooperating with Canada in the investigation. To this, he said, "... Even without an investigation being concluded, India was convicted. Is that the rule of law?"

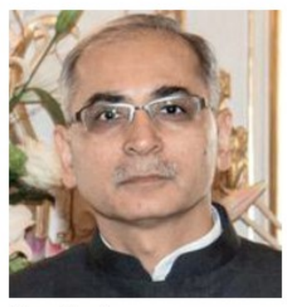
Asked how India was convicted, Mr. Verma replied: "Because India was asked to cooperate. And if you look at the typical criminal terminology, when someone asks us to cooperate which means that you have already been convicted, and you better cooperate. So we took it in a very different interpretation."

"But we always said that if there is anything specific and relevant, and communicated to us, we will look into it. And that had been said from day one. So we have never said, of course, we have not used the word cooperate, because we feel that's humiliating."

"And what we have said at that time as well, that this is a motivated and absurd allegation...," he said.

In Tehran, Kwatra discusses Gaza conflict, Chabahar port

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI


Vinay Kwatra

The Israel-Hamas conflict and India's investment in the Chabahar port developments were at the top of the agenda as Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra led a delegation in Tehran for foreign office consultations (FOC) with the Iranian government on Sunday.

According to officials, the talks were part of routine bilateral meetings between the two countries, but a detailed discussion on the West Asian situation also took place.

The talks come following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call at the G-20 summit on November 22 for nations to "ensure" that the conflict does not "spill over" to the region, and the hijack of an India-bound ship linked to Israel last week by Yemeni Houthi fighters in the Red Sea.

"The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, including connectivity projects such as Chabahar port, political engagements, trade & economic matters, cultural exchanges, people-to-people ties, agriculture cooperation, and capacity building initiatives," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement about the India-Iran talks, adding that they also discussed "regional and global issues, including developments in Afghanistan and Gaza".

During the talks, India and Iran discussed their own regional connectivity initiatives, including the Chabahar project where India is developing a cargo terminal in order to connect trade to Afghanistan and Central Asia, and which is also part of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to Central Asia and Russia via rail.

Apart from the FOC talks with Ali Bagheri Kani, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Mr. Kwatra, who was accompanied by Joint Secretary J.P. Singh and Indian Ambassador to Iran Gaurav Shreshth, also met Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, where they discussed "current challenges" in the region.

"Discussions focused on concretising India's engagement in development of Chabahar port as a connectivity project. Avenues of increasing broader trade and investment ties were also reviewed," the External Affairs Ministry said about the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari.

Mr. Kwatra's visit followed a telephone call between Mr. Modi and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on November 6, where they discussed the situation in Gaza, and Mr. Raisi called on India to "use all its capacities to end [Israeli] crimes against the oppressed people of Gaza".

Bill bars courts from inquiring into 'privileged communication' between Ministers, President

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The govt. has not clearly defined what constitutes "privileged communication"

The proposed Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill that seeks to replace the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 "bars the courts from inquiring into any privileged communication between Ministers and the President of India".

Although Article 74(2) of the Constitution states this, the Union government seeks to give it legal backing by making it part of the evidence book.

The government, however, has not clearly defined what constitutes "privileged communication", leaving the provision open to interpretation.

G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi, who was part of the government-appointed Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law that laid the framework for the three criminal codes, told *The Hindu* that the definition of privileged communication had to be ascertained first. "The Constitution is not a regular law; it must be enforced through laws. Though the provision [of courts being barred from inquiring into privileged communication] exists in the Constitution, it has been done so directly and emphatically now through the BS Bill. But it will still be open to interpretation by courts as the government has not defined what is privileged communication," Professor Bajpai said.

P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, concurred that the provision (that advice given by the Council of Ministers to the President of India could not be inquired into by the courts) exists in the Constitution. The Bill adds the proviso to Section 165, which pertains to the "production of documents" on the orders of a court. "A witness summoned to produce a document shall, if it is in his possession or power, bring it to court, notwithstanding any objection which there may be to its production or to its admissibility..., Provided that no court shall require any privilege communication between the Ministers and the President of India to be produced before it," the Bill states.

The Bill, along with two other criminal codes, was introduced on August 11 in Parliament. They were referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination. According to the report finalised by the committee, the Bill has omitted four Sections of the Indian Evidence Act.

The Union Home Secretary highlighted the major changes that have been introduced in the Bill *vis-à-vis* the Indian Evidence Act, including the deletion of British legacy references. The words 'Vakil', 'Pleader' and 'Barrister' have been replaced with the word 'Advocate', and Section 166 relating to the power of the jury has been deleted.

Nitish seeks special status for Bihar at *Bhim Sansad*

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday said the BJP leaders in Delhi should "take lessons" from the *Bhim Sansad* organised by the Janata Dal(U) in Patna.

The event was organised in an attempt to reach out to the Scheduled Castes ahead of the Lok Sabha election. "The crowd is not less than two lakh over here... I have been Chief Minister for 18 years and I have never ever seen such a huge gathering at this place [Veterinary College Ground]," Mr. Kumar said.

"I have been working for you and after seeing this huge crowd, it will motivate me to work more aggressively. The people who are ruling in Delhi and doing publicity all over must see this huge gathering and take lessons from it," he said, adding that the Centre should grant special status to Bihar.

Modi to take part in World Climate Action Summit in Dubai this week

The summit is a 'high-level' segment of 28th UN Climate Change Conference, being held under the Presidency of the UAE; a key feature of the event will be the conclusion of the Global Stocktake, a reckoning of actions taken by each country

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) in Dubai during the 28th Conference of Parties (CoP-28), the Ministry of External Affairs confirmed on Sunday.

Mr. Modi will be present on November 30 and December 1 as part of the WCAS proceedings. CoP-28 is being held from November 28 to December 12, under the Presidency of the UAE.

At this event, also called the "high-level segment", world leaders or their representatives are expected to make statements on behalf of their countries outlining their intent and contribution to stemming greenhouse gas emissions. There is no official confirmation yet if the Prime Minister will make a statement.

At the 26th edition of the CoP in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced five specific targets. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu reported on November 10 about Mr. Modi's likely presence for the global event.

The annual climate conference is the most high-profile summit to discuss the challenges posed by climate change and the roles and responsibilities of the world's governments in addressing it.

India's targets

In 2021, at the 26th edition of the CoP in Glasgow, Scotland, Mr. Modi had announced five specific targets, titled *Panchamrit*, as part of India's climate action plan. These consisted of committing India to be "net zero", or carbon neutral by 2070; committing at least 500 gigawatts of energy installations by 2030 to be from non-fossil sources; cutting carbon emissions by a billion tonnes, reducing the carbon-intensity of the economy by 45%; and meeting half of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030. Many of these goals are inter-related.

A key feature of the forthcoming CoP summit in Dubai will be the conclusion of the Global Stocktake, a first ever reckoning of the actions taken by each country towards achieving targets set at the CoP in Paris in 2015. This was to take steps to keep the globe's average temperature from rising above 2 degrees Celsius and "as far as possible" 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

A spate of recent research reports show that actions collectively promised by countries so far, will see temperatures surge past the 2 degrees Celsius mark.

Climate change was a key priority area of India's G-20 Presidency, the New Delhi Leaders Declaration said this September, committing these countries to "tripling" installed renewable energy capacity sources by 2030.

"CoP-28 will provide an opportunity to take forward these successes," the Ministry of External Affairs added.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with other world leaders who will be part of proceedings in Dubai, though these details were not shared.

INBRIEF

Prayers held in Mizoram for change in counting date

Churches in Mizoram held prayers to seek a change in the date of counting of votes for the Assembly election, a church leader said on Sunday. On Saturday, Mizoram Kohhran Hruaitute Committee (MKHC), a conglomerate of 15 major churches, had urged churches to organise prayers during church service so that counting is not held on Sunday, which is a sacred day for the majority of Christians in the State, the leader said. The counting is scheduled to be held on December 3. Citing that leaders of the NGO Coordination Committee will meet the Election Commission on November 28, the MKHC urged church members to hold prayers to ensure that the efforts bear fruit. PTI

Prominent Gurkha leader Binay Tamang joins Congress

Binay Tamang, a key Gurkha leader and former chairperson of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) – the regional autonomous body governing Darjeeling hills, joined the Congress on Sunday. He joined the Congress in presence of State party president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury at Kalimpong. The Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat has been electing BJP MPs since 2009. The issue of a permanent political solution for Darjeeling has been crucial to the politics of the region as a section of people have been demanding a separate State of Gorkhaland. With Mr. Tamang joining the Congress, speculation is rife that he may contest the Lok Sabha poll next year from Darjeeling on Congress ticket.

NIA conducts raids across 4 States in Gazwa-e-Hind case

The NIA conducted raids across four States on Sunday to root out the "Pakistan-backed Gazwa-e-Hind module". The agency seized digital evidence and documents from suspects during the raids. These allegedly revealed the suspects' links with Pakistan-based handlers. " Raids were carried out in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. The case was initially registered on July 14, 2022 following the arrest of Marghoob Ahmad Danish aka Tahir. The accused was the administrator of a WhatsApp Group named 'Ghazwa-e-Hind'. "Aimed at radicalising impressionable youth, the stated aim is the enabling of Ghazwa-e-Hind. The group was managed by Pakistan-based suspects," it said.

The Hindu, in association with Guidance, to hold 'Tamil Nadu Unlimited' summit in Chennai on December 12

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Ahead of the upcoming Global Investors Meet (GIM), 2024, *The Hindu*, in association with Guidance Tamil Nadu, the nodal agency instrumental in bringing investments into the State, will organise a full-day summit, "Tamil Nadu Unlimited", in Chennai on December 12. The State government's GIM is slated for January 7 and 8.

The summit will bring together some of the best domain experts from across sectors.

Civil servants, industrialists, and consuls-general will attend the summit, which has seven panel discussions – "Expanding education landscape of Tamil Nadu"; "Women workforce: why Tamil Nadu is ahead of the curve"; "Tamil Nadu's region wise growth: a trend-setter'; "Tourism industry: the growth engine of Tamil Nadu"; "Destination Tamil Nadu: IT infra hub"; "Fintech sector in Tamil Nadu: expanding the fintech ecosystem for inclusive well-rounded growth"; and 'Destination Tamil Nadu: a perspective from the consuls-general". Journalists of *The Hindu* will moderate these discussions.

The event, with Guidance Tamil Nadu as the co-presenting partner, is powered by Veranda Learning. VFS Global, Nippo, and the Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI), Chennai are the associate sponsors.

Sify Technologies has come in as the digital transformation partner, Nippon Paint is the colour partner, and the Avtar Group is the diversity partner. Tamil Nadu Tourism has come in as the tourism partner. Entry to the event is by invitation.

The State government is gearing up for the GIM. "Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2024 will be a star-studded summit showcasing the State as an industrial powerhouse which is building on its strong manufacturing base to become a knowledge economy," State Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said.

"We have a fantastic line-up of industrialists, entrepreneurs, academics, and policymakers for two days of thought-provoking talks and panels. We hope to enable invaluable networking and exchange of ideas. We will be signing key MoUs for landmark investments, bringing in high-quality jobs into the State. We are thrilled about the event. This GIM will be far superior in quantum and quality of investments unlike anything before it," he added.

Vishnu Venugopal, managing director and CEO, Guidance Tamil Nadu, said the GIM will aim to showcase to the world the best of ecosystems to attract further investments into the State. Thought leadership sessions have been curated to bring in some of the best minds, he said.

M.P. Vijay Kumar, executive director and group CFO, Sify Technologies, said that for one of the more advanced States in India, the GIM is a very good intersection for aspirations and investments. "As our birth State, we are deeply invested here," he added.

"I see immense potential for our company to engage with global investors and explore avenues for expanding our footprint. This could lead to the introduction of innovative educational technologies and methodologies, thereby enriching the overall education ecosystem in Tamil Nadu," Suresh Kalpathi, executive director and chairman, Veranda Learning, said.

'Bad governance, graft will dethrone BRS in Telangana'

Congress leader says people have realised that his party alone can bring about change and its campaign has been boosted by national leaders and guarantees, adding that it will get 78-82 seats

INTERVIEW

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

Ravi Reddy

Enthused by the "tremendous" response from the people to the Congress's six guarantees and "strong mood" to defeat the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), Congress Legislature Party leader and three-time MLA Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka is confident that his party is all set to deliver its best-ever performance since the formation of the State of Telangana in 2014. Excerpts:

How has the Congress campaign been on so far? Are you sure the campaign has set the tone for a change of guard in the State?

Of course, the campaign is so good that it has made people think seriously and will turn the tables on the ruling BRS.

People have decided to vote for the Congress and the party in return will distribute wealth to the people. We have clearly mentioned this in our guarantees. We have sent guarantee card to each household with our promises.

Is it an anti-incumbency trend or the six guarantees that will benefit the Congress?

Not only anti-incumbency, bad governance, looting of wealth of the State, and revival of the age-old feudal structure has made the people go against the BRS government.

And they have realised that the Congress alone can redistribute wealth.

Has the Congress campaign gained momentum because of the presence of national leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge?

Of course, it started with Bharat Jodo Yatra and then the People's March and public meetings of the Pradesh Congress president A. Revanth Reddy and national leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Kharge, Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Ms. Priyanka Gandhi. All other senior Congress leaders are collectively involved in the campaign at various levels that has boosted our prospects tremendously.

In the event of the Congress crossing the halfway mark of 60 seats, are you in the race for the Chief Minister's post?

The Congress has many capable leaders to lead the State. I am also one among them. But finally, it is the CLP that will elect the leader with the wishes of the high command. I am one of the aspirants.

Don't you think the power problem in Karnataka has put the Congress party on the defensive?

No not at all, distribution of power by any incumbent government depends upon the previous government's vision and production. In Karnataka, the previous BJP government did not bother to improve power generation. Still the present government is trying its best to improve the power situation.

Are you sure there is a BRS-BJP-AIMIM nexus to keep the Congress away from power?

Of course. Congress leaders are very strong in many constituencies and this has made the BRS panicky. It has informed the BJP leadership, which has used Central agencies to raid the Congress candidates.

How many seats will the Congress win?

We are sure of forming the government. We are going to get anywhere between 78-82 seats.

Congress to reach out to over 80 lakh gig workers in country: Chakravarty

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Congress plans to reach out to over 80 lakh gig workers and provide them with a platform to raise their issues, Praveen Chakravarty, the newly appointed chief of the All India Professional Congress (AIPC), said on Saturday.

He told *The Hindu* that he would expand the conventional definition of professionals to include people engaged in the gig economy. "I actually call them gig professionals, not workers. There are 80 lakh people in the gig economy and that's more than all the professionals employed by the formal sector companies on the stock exchange," he said.

In the past few years, the gig economy has become a source of livelihood for lakhs of people through various enterprises. However, these self-employed individuals are designated as "partners" by the companies, rendering them ineligible for any social security or benefit to which employees are entitled.

The Rajasthan government brought in a law to provide social security to gig workers by setting up welfare boards and the Congress has promised a similar law in Karnataka.

"So, we want to do two things. First, we want to provide them a platform where they can raise their issues. Often, you need someone to negotiate and strike a balance between what I call as capital and labour. And second, provide a platform for volunteers, for people who want to contribute to the party," Mr. Chakravarty said.

Miscreants urinate on student in Meerut

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A Class 12 student in Meerut was allegedly assaulted by a few miscreants, who also urinated on him. The incident was caught on camera and the video went viral on social media platforms. According to the police, the incident happened on November 13.

The police have issued a statement, saying that the main accused in the case has been arrested and three others have been booked.

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Date: 27.11.2023 DIPR/1329/DISPLAY/2023 **State Project Director**

INBRIEF

SP does not want temple at Krishna's birthplace: Maurya

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Shri Krishna temple in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Sunday alleged that the Samajwadi Party did not want the temple owing to vote-bank politics and minority appeasement. He challenged SP president Akhilesh Yadav to clarify his stand on the issue, alleging that Mr. Yadav is under pressure from Muslim community. "The Samajwadi Party (SP), which sheds the blood of Hindus for the sake of minority votes, wants the votes of the descendants of Lord Krishna, but does not want a temple on the birthplace of Lord Krishna," Mr. Maurya said in a post on X.

'LIC exploring possibility of setting up a fintech arm'

As part of its digital transformation exercise, insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is exploring the possibility of setting up a fintech unit. The LIC has initiated a total digital transformation project, DIVE (Digital Innovation and Value Enhancement), and appointed a consultant to steer the project, LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty said in an interview. "Our objective is to get best-in-class digital initiatives for all our stakeholders, customers, intermediaries, marketing people, and everybody through the project DIVE," he said. In the first phase, the customer acquisition part is going to be transformed, he added. PTI

14 killed in Gujarat due to heavy unseasonal rain

Unseasonal rain and hailstorms battered Gujarat on Sunday, killing at least 14 persons and more than 50 animals. There was large scale damage to standing crops in as many as 220 talukas. The State also reported multiple lightning strikes. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, three deaths were reported in Dahod district, two in Bharuch, and one each in Amreli, Surendranagar, Mehsana, Botad, Panchamahals, Kheda, Sabarkantha, Surat, and Ahmedabad as of Sunday evening. According to the IMD, the State is likely to witness more rain and freak weather on Monday. The State government has asked citizens not to venture out.

Ayushman Bharat Health Centres to be renamed

The Union Government has decided to rename the existing Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) as 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' with the tag-line *Arogyam Parmam Dhanam*. In its letter to all States and Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry has urged that they complete the rebranding process by the end of 2023. "As part of this effort, States have been instructed to upload photographs of the rebranded primary health facilities onto the AB-HWC portal," said a senior Health Ministry official. It has been underlined that the National Health Mission logo is to be retained in the rebranded centres, the communication added.

Modi pays homage to Mumbai terror attack victims and bravehearts

The country could never forget the day, November 26, 2008, when the terrorists had struck; 'But it is India's fortitude that made us surmount the ordeal; we are now quelling terror with full courage', PM says in his *Mann ki Baat* address

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid homage to all those who had lost their lives in the dastardly Mumbai terror attacks 15 years ago.

Addressing the nation through his *Mann Ki Baat* monthly radio programme, Mr. Modi said the country could never forget the day, November 26, 2008, when the terrorists had struck. "But it is India's fortitude that made us surmount the ordeal; we are now quelling terror with full courage," he said.

The Prime Minister said November 26 was significant on one more account, as on that date in 1949, the Constituent Assembly had passed and adopted the Constitution.

Mr. Modi remembered Hansa Mehta, one of the 15 nominated women members of the Constituent Assembly, saying that she had raised her voice for women's rights and justice. "It's a matter of inner satisfaction for me that in adherence to the farsightedness of the framers of the Constitution, the Parliament of India has now passed the women's reservation Bill," he said.

Speaking to mass: BJP party members listen to Prime Minister Modi's *Mann ki Baat*, at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad on Sunday. ANI

In his previous speech, the Prime Minister had stressed on "Vocal for local". This time, he expressed satisfaction that on Deepavali, Bhaiya Dooj and Chhath, ₹4 lakh crore worth of business was done. He said the campaign's success was opening the doors to a developed and prosperous India.

Stating that intelligence, idea, and innovation were the hallmarks of Indian youth today, Mr. Modi said there was an increase of over 31% in patent applications by Indians in 2022. As per the World Intellectual Property Organisation report, it had never happened earlier even in the top 10 patent-filing countries.

Talking about the Culture Ministry's Mela Moments Contest initiative, he said thousands of people participated and many won prizes. A festival of Chhau dance of the tribal areas of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal was organised in Srinagar and Basohli Utsav in Kathua. In Saudi Arabia, "Sanskrit Utsav" showcasing dialogues, music, and dance, was held.

On the "Swachh Bharat" campaign, the Prime Minister appreciated public participation in Gujarat's Surat where over 50,000 youth got together to clean the banks of the Tapi river as part of a cleanliness drive. He also mentioned Loganathan from Tamil Nadu who has so far helped over 1,500 needy children.

Stating that water security was one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century, he said over 65,000 "Amrit Sarovars" developed during the "Amrit Mahotsav" would benefit future generations. Now, the goal should be to conserve them, he said.

Mr. Modi also spoke about the importance of skill development and congratulated the "Beljipuram Youth Club" for empowering around 7,000 women. It also helped the children trapped in child labour to get out of that vicious cycle by teaching them some skill; taught new skills to the farmers associated with farmer producer organisations; spread awareness of cleanliness in villages; and helped in the construction of toilets.

Mr. Modi said over 450 women from 15 villages in Ladakh were involved in weaving the Pashmina shawl, which was now reaching different markets in the country and the world. "...in *Mann Ki Baat*, we have been discussing such collective efforts which have brought about major changes in society."

Moshe's grandfather thanks Indians

Press Trust of India
AFULA

The grandfather of Moshe Holtzberg, the youngest survivor of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, has expressed his gratitude to the people of India for treating his family's pain as their own all these years.

Moshe, who was just two at the time of the deadly 26/11 attack carried out by 10 Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, lost both his parents in the attack on Nariman House, also known as Chabad House.

"The people of India remember what happened on this day 15 years ago," Rabbi Shimon Rosenberg, Moshe's grandfather said.

"I want to say that I, my wife, Yehudit, and also the Moishi [Moshe] boy, feel it and want to thank you all in India for your similar feelings for the tragedy that struck us and you all," he said.

"This year especially shows how terrorists want to murder the Jews but we still hope for peace in the whole world," he said.

U.P. gives 15 days' time for removing halal items

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has given outlet chains, retailers and department stores 15 days to withdraw any halal-certified food items from their shelves. It has also directed 92 State-based manufacturers, which were getting halal certification from non-certified organisations for their goods, to recall their products within the State or repackage them.

The State on November 18 banned the production, storage, distribution and sale of halal-certified products. In the aftermath, it investigated roughly 500 establishments across different districts and 97 places in the State in search of halal-certified products and seized 2,500 kg of halal-certified products.

The government has also transferred the case registered against four firms for alleged irregularities in halal certification of products to the Special Task Force of the U.P. police.

Supply-demand gap for pulses, oilseeds, fruit to persist over the next seven years: report

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Price spikes in pulses this year may have been spurred by dented production prospects amid an uneven monsoon, but India's output shortfalls vis-a-vis demand for the key protein source and edible oils and fruits are expected to persist or even widen over the next seven years, says a new research report by agricultural economists.

Food deficits compel reliance on imports and raise the food import bill in the long run, cautioned the research report on "Prospects of India's demand and supply for agricultural commodities towards 2030", published by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations.

"Commodities like oilseed, pulses, and fruits are expected to experience a supply and demand gap in the coming years. Therefore, there is a need to increase the level of production and productivity of oilseeds, pulses, and fruits since their demand in the future shows an increasing trend," the report's authors, Ashok Gulati and Shyma Jose, said.

As per capita incomes rise, the consumption basket of people tends to diversify towards nutritious and high-valued commodities, including fruits and vegetables and dairy products and away from staples such as rice and cereals, the report noted. So demand growth for non-cereals and high-valued commodities is expected to exceed the population growth rate and cereal commodities' growth in coming years, they argued.

The report assumes significance as recurrent high food inflation spells, as seen this year, cramp the room for monetary and fiscal policies to promote economic growth.

Output shortage

The table shows the gap between projected demand and supply (in million tonnes) for 2025-26 and 2030-31

Food items	2025-26	2030-31
Rice	25.5	37.7
Wheat	15.4	25.5
Coarse cereals	3.2	6.4
Cereals	44.2	69.6
Pulses	-2.1	0.4

Food items	2025-26	2030-31
Foodgrains	42	70
Oilseeds	**-3**	**-6**
Milk	31.7	76.2
Fruits	4	10.6
Vegetables	8.3	18.4

SOURCE: NABARD AND ICRIER

Three-year low

Output of pulses, some coarse cereals and groundnut oil seeds could hit a three-year low this Kharif season, as per initial independent estimates for crop output. Retail inflation in pulses accelerated sharply to 18.8% last month, while inflation in fruits picked up to hit 9.34%. Edible oils have witnessed deflation through most of this year, as their prices had surged sharply last year after the Ukraine conflict erupted.

Oil seeds production is expected to rise to 35 million to 40 million tonnes (MT) by 2030-31.

"Notably, the deficit of oilseeds in the food balance sheet in 2030 is worrisome for the country given the edible oil imports as high as 13.4 MT during 2020-21. A technological breakthrough in oilseeds to increase productivity or area expansion are two possible solutions to improve oilseeds' balance sheet in the long run," the report reckoned.

The report reiterated the recommendation of a 2012 report from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to raise the import duty whenever the import price of crude palm oil falls below $800 a tonne to protect Indian producers.

However, it also added that attaining self-reliance in water-intensive and long-gestation crops such as oil palm may not be worth pursuing as a sustainable goal either.

Mr. Gulati, who headed the CACP and is now a distinguished professor at ICRIER, and Ms. Jose, a research fellow at the think tank, projected demand for different farm produce up to 2030-31 based on three alternative growth scenarios that assumed per capita income (PCY) growth ranging from 4.1% to 6.1%. Supply-side estimations were done by assuming that trends will persist in line with those in the last 10 years (prior to 2020-21) or over the previous 15 years.

The report has called for policy attention to ensure a balance between domestic production and the absorption of these commodities, diversification towards high-value commodities that require major investments in market infrastructure, processing, and cold storage and warehousing facilities to build an efficient and reliable value chain.

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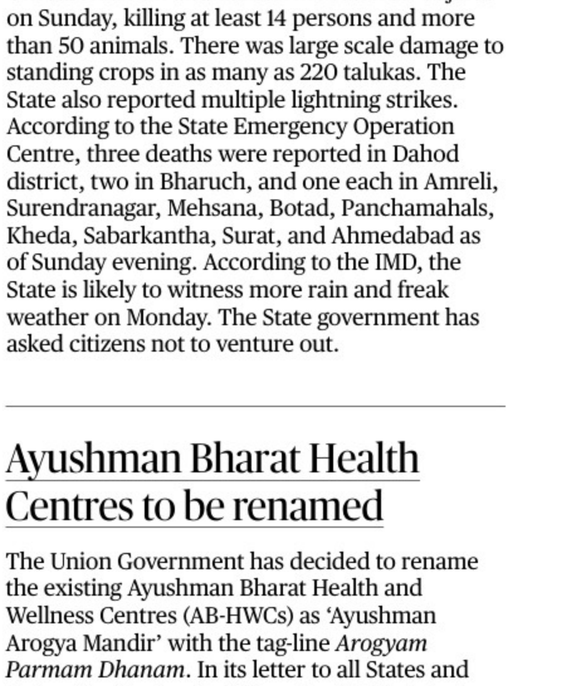


Across

1 Unrests starting off in Russian capital (7)
5 Persuades leader of students to bunk class for a date (5,2)
10 Superior blouses, evenly cut (4)
11 Abnormal temperature draining energy in sound receiver (3,7)
12 Substitution of Democrat with Republican in team meeting leads to difficulty (6)
13 Stop before director probes this (8)
14 Engineer readies TV broadcast (9)
16 Former revolutionary near British Columbia smuggling drug in pirate ship (5)
17 Street actor regularly returns for musical ensemble (5)
19 Model is seen holding meet to raise awareness (9)
23 Rudeness upset consumers (3,5)
24 Neglected wildebeest revived by one in Toulouse (6)
26 Flower from the back of Saddleworth Moor captivates well-known poet (10)
27 Legendary captain of ship rejected portent (4)
28 Green complex with extremely classy style of architecture (7)
29 One thrown into Underground is no more (7)

Down

2 Stout old pole drilled with raised hexagonal metal block (7)
3 Installed floor across wings of arcades (5)
4 I, for one, vote for guys replacing Conservative (7)
6 Where heads of eagles' young, remaining incubated, emerge slowly (6)
7 Soothing cryptic clue by Avtaar turned up in degree books (9)
8 Almost certainly in debt with unpaid EMIs, to start with (7)
9 Bent group of coppers probing journalists, charged one (13)
15 Team stealing nice-looking cycles detained by lady official (9)
18 Come together where mother and sisters stay taking time off before start of Easter (7)
20 Sleep thus, changing positions, I say! (4-3)
21 Charlie gets involved in crime before Frank (7)
22 Chaotic new format of the ICC (6)
25 Spy is regularly sick and absent (5)

SUDOKU

6				2	7			
	8	3			9			
			6				4	5
					5		6	9
		7				1		
9	5		4					
2	3				1			
			2			8	3	
			8	5				6

No.SS5990 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

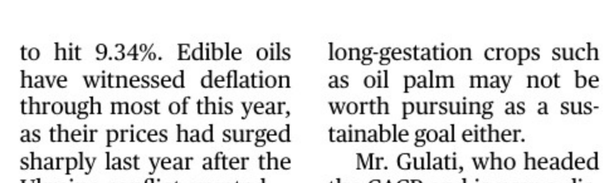
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

M	U	S	T	A	C	H	E	■	S	T	E	R	N	A
A	■	A	■	L	■	E	■	D	■	R	■	E	■	S
S	I	N	A	T	R	A	■	E	Q	U	A	T	E	S
A	■	I	■	E	■	T	■	E	■	C	■	R	■	A
L	A	T	E	R	■	E	U	P	H	E	M	I	S	M
A	■	Y	■	N	■	D	■	L	■	■	■	E	■	E
■	■	■	S	A	F	E	T	Y	V	A	L	V	E	S
O	■	A	■	T	■	X	■	O	■	M	■	E	■	E
F	I	L	T	E	R	C	O	F	F	E	E	■	■	■
F	■	L	■	■	■	H	■	F	■	T	■	E	■	W
E	X	O	N	E	R	A	T	E	■	H	E	N	N	A
R	■	W	■	L	■	N	■	N	■	Y	■	T	■	G
I	S	S	U	I	N	G	■	D	I	S	L	I	K	E
N	■	I	■	T	■	E	■	E	■	T	■	R	■	R
G	A	N	G	E	S	■	O	D	Y	S	S	E	Y	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	1	6	5	4	3	7	2
7	5	2	8	3	1	6	9	4
3	4	6	7	2	9	5	8	1
9	3	8	1	4	7	2	6	5
1	6	7	5	8	2	9	4	3
5	2	4	3	9	6	8	1	7
6	1	5	2	7	8	4	3	9
4	8	3	9	1	5	7	2	6
2	7	9	4	6	3	1	5	8



FAITH

Significance of Kartigai

The month of Kartigai is renowned for Kartigai Deepam, which witnesses devotion reaching a crescendo among the faithful. The festival also brings to one's mind the Deepam at Tiruvannamalai. The month is also unique as it shares the name with a star in the Tamil almanac. The name was also chosen by the Lord himself to honour the Kartigai women who looked after the six infants emanating from the Lord as sparks when Parvati was in penance. Later, they were united into one by Umaiyal as the renowned Karthikeyan, said Suchithra Balasubramanian in a discourse. Kartigai is an occasion for all to light a lamp and seek wisdom. There are five sthalas of Siva each devoted to one of the elements. The earth is embodied in Kanchipuram, water at Tiruvanaikaval, air in Sree Kalahasthi, the sky in Chidambaram and fire in Tiruvannamalai.

Legend has it that Vishnu and Brahma were involved in an argument as to who is greater. At the request of devas to end this, Siva took the form of fire, with no beginning or ending, to put an end to the debate. Vishnu and Brahma agree that whoever finds one tip of the fire will be adjudged the greater one. Vishnu takes the form of a boar seeking the bottom of the flame while Brahma flew up in the form of a swan seeking the top. Both realise the flame has no beginning or end.

ATHENS

One dead, 12 missing as cargo ship sinks off a Greek island

AP

A cargo ship sank off the Greek island of Lesbos in stormy seas early on Sunday, leaving one dead, 12 crew members missing and one rescued. The *Raptor*, registered in the Comoros, was on its way to Istanbul from Alexandria, carrying 6,000 tonnes of salt. It had a crew of 14, including eight Egyptians, four Indians and two Syrians. AP

FREETOWN

Sierra Leone declares curfew after gunmen attack military barracks

AFP

Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio declared a nationwide curfew after gunmen attacked the military's main barracks in the West African nation's capital, raising fears of a breakdown of order amid a surge of coups in the region. He said they were driven back by security forces and "calm has been restored." AP

MOSCOW

Russia puts Meta spokesperson on wanted list without giving charges

AFP

Russia put Meta Platforms spokesperson Andy Stone on a wanted list on unspecified charges as the U.S. social media giant — which owns Facebook — is classed as "extremist" by Moscow. Russia has cracked down on media and social media freedom since launching its Ukraine offensive last year and banning criticism of it. AFP

SEOUL

South Korea's spy agency chief and top intelligence officials resign

AP

South Korea's spy agency chief Kim Kyou-hyun resigned as tensions soar over neighbouring North Korea's weapons programmes. Two other officials of the National Intelligence Service also resigned. The resignations appear to be connected to personnel management issues that have been swirling at the spy agency since June. AFP

Israel-linked tanker seized off Yemen yet again

Associated Press
DUBAI

Attackers seized a tanker linked to Israel off the coast of Aden, Yemen, on Sunday. While no group claimed responsibility, it comes as at least two other maritime attacks in recent days have been linked to the Israel-Hamas war.

The attackers seized the Liberian-flagged 22-crew strong *Central Park*, managed by Zodiac Maritime, in the Gulf of Aden. Zodiac called the seizure "a suspected piracy incident."

"The Turkish-captained vessel has a multinational crew consisting of a crew of Russian, Vietnamese, Bulgarian, Indian, Georgian and Filipino nationals. The vessel is carrying a full cargo of phosphoric acid," Zodiac said.

Hamas releases third group of hostages as part of truce

Exchange of second batch of hostages, put off by Hamas initially, comes through; extremist group says one of its top commanders has been killed; four-year-old U.S. girl expected to be released

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Hamas militants on Sunday freed 17 more hostages, including 14 Israelis, in a third set of releases under a cease-fire deal. Red Cross representatives transferred the hostages out of Gaza late on Sunday.

Israel's prison service said 39 Palestinian detainees were released on Sunday.

It was the third consecutive day in which Hamas released Israeli hostages it has been holding in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. A fourth exchange is expected to take place on Monday – the last day of the four-day cease-fire between the enemies. A total of 50 hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed.

Fragile situation: Trucks carrying humanitarian aid enter the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing along Egypt on Sunday. AFP

Israel declared war on Hamas after the Islamic extremist group carried out a cross-border attack on October 7 that killed some 1,200 people and took 240 people hostage. An Israeli offensive in Gaza has left over 13,300 people dead.

In a separate development, Hamas said that one of its top commanders had been killed, without saying when or how.

The second exchange was delayed for hours on Saturday after Hamas accused Israel of violating the agreement However, Hamas later released 13 Israelis and four Thais, while Israel freed 39 Palestinian prisoners.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the U.S. had "reason to believe" that an American hostage would be released on Sunday and said there were hopes it would be Abigail Edan, the 4-year-old girl who lost her parents in the Hamas attack on October 7. Sullivan also said that U.S. President Joe Biden would speak with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later on Sunday.

S. Korea, Japan and China to resume leaders' summit

Associated Press
SEOUL

Meeting for the first time in about four years, the top diplomats from South Korea, Japan and China agreed on Sunday to revive cooperation among the Asian neighbours and resume their leaders' trilateral summit – but without a specific timing.

Closely linked with one another, the three countries together account for about 25% of the global GDP. But efforts to boost cooperation have often hit a snag because of a mix of issues including historical disputes stemming from Japan's wartime aggression and the strategic competition between China and the U.S.

"We three Ministers agreed to restore and normalise three-nation cooperation at an early date," South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin told reporters after his meeting with Japan's Yoko Kamikawa and China's Wang Yi in Busan, South Korea.

Mixed signals: The three Foreign Ministers, who met in Busan on Sunday, did not give a specific date for the summit. AP

Mr. Park said the three Ministers affirmed an earlier agreement by lower-level officials to restart the summit.

The three also agreed to push for diverse cooperation projects in areas such as people-to-people exchange, trade, technology, public health, sustainable development and security. The lack of an agreement on the timing for the trilateral summit would suggest the top-level gathering won't likely happen this year as South Korea, the chair of the next summit, had hoped, observers say.

China attributes familiar causes to respiratory illnesses

Associated Press
BEIJING

A surge in respiratory illnesses across China that has drawn the attention of the World Health Organization is caused by the flu and other known pathogens and not by a novel virus, the country's Health Ministry said on Sunday.

Recent clusters of respiratory infections are caused by an overlap of common viruses such as the influenza virus, rhinoviruses, the respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, the adenovirus as well as bacteria such as mycoplasma pneumoniae, which is a common culprit for respiratory tract infections, a National Health Commission spokesperson said.

The Ministry called on local authorities to open more fever clinics and promote vaccinations among children and the elderly as the country grapples with a wave of respiratory illnesses in its first full winter since the removal of COVID-19 restrictions.

"Efforts should be made to increase the opening of clinics and treatment areas, extend service hours and increase the supply of medicines," a Ministry spokesman said.

He advised people to wear masks and called on local authorities to focus on preventing the spread of illnesses in crowded places such as schools and nursing homes.

Chinese fighter jets 'orbit' Philippine patrol aircraft

Reuters
MANILA

Philippines, Australia militaries carry out a second day of sea and air exercises in South China Sea

Two Chinese fighter jets were monitored "orbiting" a Philippine aircraft participating in patrols with Australia in the South China Sea but did not cause any untoward incident, Manila said on Sunday.

The militaries of the Philippines and Australia carried out a second day of sea and air exercises in the Southeast Asian country's exclusive economic zone, days after Manila held patrols with the U.S. as Pacific nations warily eye an increasingly assertive China.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, a conduit for more than $3 trillion of annual shipborne commerce, including parts claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 said China's claims had no legal basis.

The Philippines is ramping up efforts to counter what it describes as China's "aggressive activities" in the South China Sea, which has also become a flashpoint for Chinese and U.S. tensions around naval operations.

Armed group seizes China-Myanmar border crossing from Myanmar junta

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

An ethnic minority armed group in Myanmar has seized control from the country's ruling junta of a lucrative border crossing to China, local media and a security source said.

Clashes have raged across Myanmar's northern Shan state, close to the Chinese border, after an armed alliance of three ethnic minority groups launched an offensive against the military in October.

The groups have seized dozens of military positions and a town important for trade with China, choking commerce routes for the cash-strapped junta.

Incremental gains: The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army raised its flag at the border zone at Kyin San Kyawt. FILE PHOTO

An offensive by the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) – one of the three allied groups – captured the Kyin San Kyawt border gate.

"MNDAA also reported they seized one more border trade gate, which is called Kyin San Kyawt, in Mongko area, Muse district this morning," the Kokang news reported on Sunday.

More victories

It added that the alliance – including the Arakan Army (AA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) – had taken other positions in the border trade zone after the assault began on Friday.

MNDAA had raised its flag at the border trade zone at Kyin San Kyawt, a security source told AFP.

The gate was re-opened in 2022 after the pandemic, and is a major trading point along the Myanmar-China border.

Why bank deposits are attractive

THINKINVESTOR

When you invest in a bank deposit, you know the cashflow you will generate at the end of the time horizon for your goal

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Investing in bank deposits along with equity investments is optimal for goal-based investments. A query often received in this regard from readers is the concern that the post-tax return on bank deposits is low, as interest income is taxed at an individual's marginal tax rate. Therefore, the argument goes, bank deposits are not attractive for working professionals. In this article, we discuss what makes bank deposits attractive despite their low post-tax returns.

Reinvestment risk

Suppose you want to buy a house 10 years hence. Based on current prices and adjusting for inflation, suppose you determine that your dream house will cost ₹5 crore. You decide to accumulate ₹1 crore towards 20% down payment for the house, with the rest funded by a bank loan. Assuming you save ₹55,000 every month to achieve this goal, your required return will be 7.8% on a post-tax compounded annual basis. You must decide your allocation between equity and bonds based on this required return.

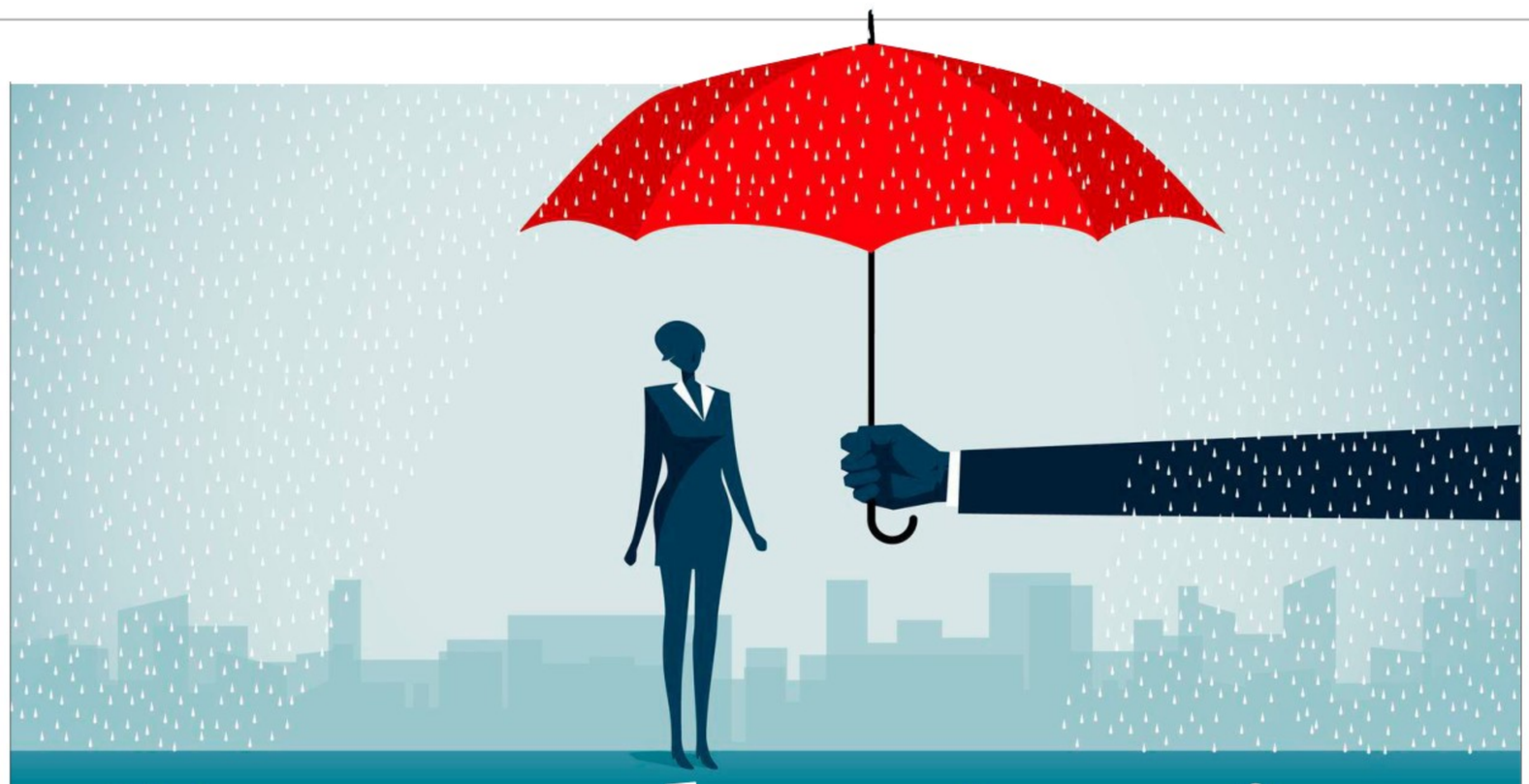
Consider the bond allocation. Suppose you expect to earn 7% per annum on your bond investments, translating into a post-tax return of 4.9% (30% tax). Because your required return of 7.8% is on a compounded basis, your bond investments must earn 4.9% compound return. So, the interest that you earn on your deposit must also earn 7% return on a pre-tax basis (compound interest). But what if the bank credits the interest income into your savings account at the end of each year? You must reinvest the income at 7% per annum each year for the remaining period of the life goal. This issue is that in any year, RBI could cut interest rates, thereby, making it difficult for you to reinvest your interest income at 7%. That is the reinvestment risk. It is the most important risk you must manage relating to your bond investments. Investing in a recurring deposit and cumulative fixed deposit can help you manage this risk.

Conclusion

When you invest in a bank deposit, the maturity value of the deposit is known to you. So, ignoring the small possibility of the bank defaulting on your deposits, you know the amount of cash flow you will be able to generate at the end of the time horizon for your goal. That and the ability to manage reinvestment risk makes bank deposits relevant to your goal-based investments.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



Homemakers 'coming to terms' with term insurance

Significant strides in the Indian insurance industry have made term insurance more accessible and affordable for women, who had otherwise been left out from crucial financial decisions

SAFETY NET

Santosh Agarwal

> Historically, homemakers were dependent on their spouse's financial standing to secure a life cover

Pursuit of financial security is a common aspiration for all, irrespective of gender. Securing one's present and the future of dear ones is the core foundation of financial planning. Yet, the traditional conditioning of women led to their non-participation in this crucial decision. This dynamic also explains the reason behind them being left out of the financial protection net, or entirely relying on their spouse's decision of term insurance ownership. Regardless of their employment status, women's invaluable contribution is crucial to a household, and so should be their decision-making power in financial planning.

Fortunately, the Indian insurance industry has made significant strides in the past few years to make term insurance more accessible and affordable for women. What also incredibly works in their favour is that women have far lower mortality and morbidity rate than men, and hence are entitled to a lower premium for the same coverage as compared to men. It, hence, hardly comes as a wonder that new-age solutions are constantly being designed to cater to both homemakers and working women's needs effectively.

Here's deep diving into what makes term insurance a more financially prudent decision for women and how it opens up the way to financial independence for them.

Mortality, morbidity

Mortality rate and morbidity rate have a direct impact on term insurance premium and this is why the policy is up to 30% cheaper for women. But what are these rates and how are they relevant to term insurance? Mortality rate is a measure of the number of deaths in a population size, while morbidity rate is a measure of illness or injury in a population size in a timeframe.

Statistically, women have a distinct advantage when it comes to longevity. Numerous studies and data points consistently affirm that women tend to outlive their male counterparts.

This difference in life expectancy can be attributed to various factors, including healthier lifestyles, genetic predispositions, and healthcare utilisation patterns. Consequently, it results in a lower mortality rate for women. To put this into perspective, consider this: a longer life expectancy implies a decreased likelihood of the policyholder passing away during the term of the insurance policy. Lower mortality risk translates into tangible benefits when it comes to term insurance premiums, making it a financially advantageous choice for women with up to 30% lower premiums.

Tailor-made plans

Historically, homemakers were dependent on their spouse's financial standing to secure a life cover. The coverage amount was determined by the husband's annual income, resulting in homemakers being covered for approximately half of the total assured sum. For instance, if the yearly income of the spouse is ₹5 lakh and the income multiplier is 15 times, then the full eligibility cover results in ₹75 lakh.

From this, if the spouse takes away the cover of ₹65 lakh, the wife is merely left with ₹10 lakh cover. Additionally, it's important to note that term insurance policies typically start at ₹50 lakh of coverage, making this shared coverage potentially inadequate, especially for the women of the house.

With the advent of new-age independent term homemaker plans, this dependency has entirely been eliminated. Homemakers can independently purchase a cover of up to ₹1 crore with flexible prerequisites like annual household income of ₹5 lakh and educational qualification of 10th/12th pass.

More affordable plans for women translate to higher insurance adoption among them.

This aids the family in sustaining their existing quality of life, meeting monthly EMIs, repaying loans, and pursuing lifelong objectives such as a child's education. For example, a term cover of 1 crore for a woman aged 30 years, non-smoking, and salaried, would incur a monthly cost of ₹767 for a term plan, in contrast to the ₹927 paid by men for the same plan.

This reflects a nearly 28% reduction in premium compared to their male counterparts.

Moreover, a premium paid towards a term plan is eligible for tax exemption of up to ₹1.5 lakh under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act 1961. Additionally, the death benefit pay-out is also tax-free under Section 10(10D).

In conclusion, it is evident that term insurance plays a crucial role in empowering women, both economically and in terms of securing their family's future.

(The writer is CBO, Life Insurance, Policybazaar.com)

Insurance: The pie in the sky

COVERNOTE

Retirement homes have become part of everyday conversation, so should awareness on annuity policies

K. Nitya Kalyani

Confused thinking between risk protection and investment return plagues the process of deciding about insurance. No financial product is everything for everybody, and insurance certainly isn't. Yet, it is human nature to look at all possible benefits and judge their costs and benefits, comparing them with costs and benefits from other financial instruments.

In this context let us see about the pension policy, or the annuity policy as it is called. You can pay the premium in one shot and start receiving periodic annuity payments immediately. Or you can pay premium in installments over a chosen period, the accumulated corpus with its returns then becomes the premium leading to annuity payments. The method you choose depends on your stage in life. As typical investors we see this like a fixed deposit or a recurring deposit with the returns coming in installments over time. The rate of return never compares favourably with FD rates, however, and so the decision stalls.

What we forget is the uncertainty from the side of the insurance company. The premium is set, the annuity quantum is set, but how long the annuity will be paid depends on the remaining lifespan of the investor. One person could receive annuities for 10 years and another for 30 years, at the same premium. For this risk that the insurance company assumes, they charge a cost and that accounts for the difference in return rate between annuities and a simple product like a fixed deposit.

So, what inhibits insurance sales? In the case of annuities, it is the fact that the insurance company covers the risk of us living too long is not clearly articulated. We think an FD will give better returns, but forget there is a reinvestment risk. On renewal, the rate may have gone down and if I need annuities for 30 years, the interest rate cycle could go up and down several times, something individuals just can't manage.

There is another sticking point when it comes to annuities. Your annuity is taxable just like any income and that, in the post retirement years, hurts! The income tax laws may have their own logic. There is some amount of tax deduction on annuity premium, on immediate annuity and annuity through the National Pension Scheme, but otherwise, as prospects point out, they are paying premium out of post-tax money and there is no social security system in India, which means annuities should not be taxed, at least to a certain threshold. Retirement planning options are yet growing and maturing, we need to protect ourselves given the shortcomings of the system as they stand.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Flat Rs 51
State Bank of India	10.55-14.55	10,759-11,777	2,152-2,355	NIL (till 31st January 2024)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.80-18.25	10,821-12,765	2,164-2,553	Up to 2% (min Rs 1,000 and max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.15-12.80	10,660-11,325	2,132-2,265	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	14.21	11,689	2,338	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.70 - 12.10	10,307 - 11,148	Up to Rs 500
Canara Bank	8.70 - 11.95	10,307 - 11,110	Nil till 31 December 2023
Bank of India	8.75 - 10.75	10,319 - 10,809	Nil
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	1% (Up to Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.65 - 9.70	10,294 - 10,550	Nil
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.55	10,319 - 10,513	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	Nil
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.00 onwards	10,379 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.98 - 11.67	10,374 - 11,039	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.00 - 13.50	10,379 - 11,505	Up to 3.5%
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers

Rates and charges as on November 22 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

QUITE SIMILAR

Ashwin heaps praise on Mukesh, calls him 'Junior Shami'

GETTY IMAGES

R. Ashwin heaped praise on Mukesh Kumar, calling him "Junior Shami". "I initially thought Mohammad Siraj would become the junior Shami, but I now feel it could be Mukesh Kumar. He has a similar build, similar height, and outstanding wrist position — he has that great whip of the wrist and terrific backspin on the ball," Ashwin said.

WELL DONE, BUT...

India played its best cricket in World Cup, feels Lara

FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

Brian Lara showered praise on the Indian cricket team saying the Men in Blue played their best cricket at the ODI World Cup. "They played their best cricket in the World Cup... India just had to play its best cricket to come out on top. But sometimes, you come up short on one occasion and against a team like Australia, you can't let them in."

'A GIFT'

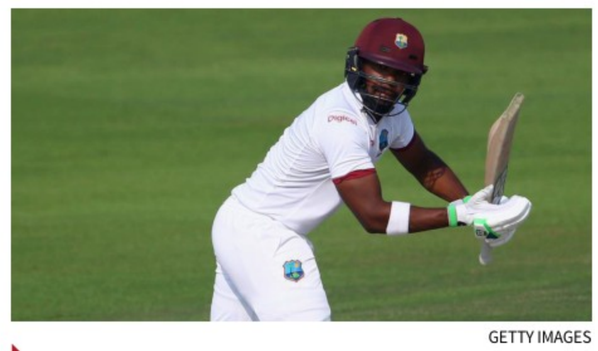
Chennai Super Kings 'retains' captain Dhoni for IPL 2024

GETTY IMAGES

As IPL teams disclosed their lists of retained and released players for the 2024 edition in anticipation of the upcoming mini-auction next month, defending champion Chennai Super Kings (CSK) unveiled its roster. M.S. Dhoni was included in the 'retained' section of the list. CSK posted on its X handle, "2024 - A Gift from Thala! Start the whistles!"

STEPPING BACK

Bravo takes break from cricket following England ODIs snub



GETTY IMAGES

Darren Bravo has decided to take a break from the international game after being overlooked for the upcoming ODI series against England. Bravo took to social media to announce his decision to move away from selection for West Indies. The left-handed batter last featured in internationals in February 2022.

India's batting might proves too strong for Australia

Jaiswal leads the way with a blistering half-century followed by Kishan and Gaikwad; Rinku's stunning cameo powers the hosts to 235; Bishnoi and Prasidh thwart the chase with three wickets apiece; Surya's men take a 2-0 lead

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Half-centuries from the Indian top-order led by Yashasvi Jaiswal (53, 25b, 9x4, 2x6), followed by a brilliant spell from the spinners, helped the Men in Blue beat Australia by 44 runs in the second T20I match and take a 2-0 lead here at the Greenfield International Stadium on Sunday.

Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad (58), and Ishan Kishan (52) laid the platform before Rinku Singh's sensational unbeaten 31 off nine balls powered India to 235 for four after being asked to bat first.

Despite heavy dew, leggie Ravi Bishnoi (3 for 32) and left-arm spinner Axar Patel (1 for 25) applied the squeeze, taking three wickets in the PowerPlay.

Bishnoi accounted for Matthew Short and Josh Inglis in his first two overs, while Axar got the better of Glenn Maxwell to reduce the Aussies to 53 for three by the sixth over.

Marcus Stoinis (45) and Tim David (37) gave India a scare by going after the pacers Arshdeep Singh and Mukesh Kumar during their 81-run partnership off 38 balls for the fifth wicket.

Stoinis started by hitting Bishnoi for two sixes down the ground and then smashed Arshdeep all over the park, while David plundered 20 off Mukesh. But Bishnoi returned strongly to remove David, caught in the deep. In the next over, Mukesh had Stoinis caught at long-on to effectively seal the game for the home team.

Earlier, Jaiswal unleashed his willow like a sword, cutting the pacers with precision through the off-side, especially going after Sean Abbott. He was guilty of bowling short, and the left-hander cut the first three deliveries for boundaries through the off-side and then pulled the next two over the leg side for sixes to pocket 24 runs in the fourth over.

Jaiswal meted out similar treatment to Nathan Ellis, hitting a hat-trick of boundaries in the sixth over to reach his half-century off just 24 balls as India got 77 in the PowerPlay.

Australia pulled things back in the middle-phase, sending in a few quiet overs as Gaikwad (58, 43b, 3x4, 2x6) and Ishan Kishan (52, 32b, 3x4, 4x6) struggled with timing against Tanveer Sangha and Adam Zampa, scoring only one boundary in the five overs after the PowerPlay.

Kishan finally cut loose against Maxwell, lofting the off-spinner down the ground for a six, followed by a boundary. The 25-year-old then swept Sangha for two sixes over the leg-side, as he did in the first match, to reach his second half-century of the series in style.

Rinku continued to burnish his reputation as a finisher when he went after Abbott. He hit the pacer for 24 runs in the 19th over with three boundaries and two sixes to take the hosts past 200, which proved more than enough.

Dazzling show: Jaiswal ran amok right from the word go to throw the Aussie attack out of gear. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Zampa b Ellis 53 *(25b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad c David b Ellis 58 *(43b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Ellis b Stoinis 52 *(32b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Stoinis b Ellis 19 *(10b, 2x6)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 31 *(9b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma (not out) 7 *(2b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-12, nb-1): 15; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 235.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-77 (Jaiswal, 5.5 overs), 2-164 (Kishan, 15.2), 3-189 (Suryakumar, 17.4), 4-221 (Ruturaj, 19.2).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Stoinis 3-0-27-1, Ellis 4-0-45-3, Maxwell 2-0-38-0, Abbott 3-0-56-0, Zampa 4-0-33-0, Sangha 4-0-34-0.

AUSTRALIA
Steve Smith c Jaiswal b Prasidh 19 (16b, 1x4, 1x6), Matthew Short b Bishnoi 19 (10b, 3x4), Josh Inglis c Tilak b Bishnoi 2 (4b), Glenn Maxwell c Jaiswal b Axar 12 (8b, 1x4, 1x6), Marcus Stoinis c Axar b Mukesh 45 (25b, 2x4, 4x6), Tim David c Ruturaj b Bishnoi 37 (22b, 4x4, 2x6), Matthew Wade (not out) 42 (23b, 1x4, 4x6), Sean Abbott b Prasidh 1 (2b), Nathan Ellis b Prasidh 1 (4b), Adam Zampa b Arshdeep 1 (3b), Tanveer Sangha (not out) 2 (4b); Extras (lb-4, w-5, nb-1): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 191.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-35 (Short, 2.5), 2-39 (Inglis, 4.2), 3-53 (Maxwell, 5.5), 4-58 (Smith, 7.2), 5-139 (David, 13.3), 6-148 (Stoinis, 14.4), 7-149 (Abbott, 15.1), 8-152 (Ellis, 15.6), 9-155 (Zampa, 16.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Arshdeep 4-0-46-1, Prasidh 4-0-41-3, Bishnoi 4-0-32-3, Axar 4-0-25-1, Mukesh 4-0-43-1.

Toss: Australia. **PoM:** Jaiswal.
India won by 44 runs to lead five-match series 2-0.

Third T20I: Nov. 28, Guwahati, 7 p.m.

GT retains Hardik for now, names him skipper

IPL 2024

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The suspense over Hardik Pandya's anticipated move from Gujarat Titans to his Indian Premier League alma mater Mumbai Indians persisted even after the player retention list was made official on Sunday.

Hardik, who has led the Gujarat Titans to a title and a runners-up run in its first two seasons, was included in the Titans' retained list.

However, with the player trading window to remain open until December 12, the likelihood of him being traded out to Mumbai Indians still persists.

Should Hardik's deal go through, MI will have 18 players – minimum squad size required – and just ₹25 lakh going into the player auction scheduled on December 19.

Meanwhile, Ben Stokes (Chennai Super Kings), Harry Brook (Sunrisers Hyderabad), Wanindu Hasaranga (Royal Challengers Bangalore), Shardul Thakur (Kolkata Knight Riders) and Shahrukh Khan (Punjab Kings) were among the big-ticket signings who were released by their respective franchises.

Contrary to speculation, all-rounders Andre Russell and Sam Curran were retained by KKR and PBKS, respectively.

Hardik. VIJAY SONEJI

The updated squads:
Chennai Super Kings:
Released: Ambati Rayudu, Ben Stokes, Dwaine Pretorious, Bhagath Varma, Subhranshu Senapati, Akash Singh, Kyle Jamieson and Sisanda Magala.
Retained: M.S. Dhoni, Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Ravindra Jadeja, Mitchell Santner, Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube, Nishant Sindhu, Ajay Mandal, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Deepak Chahar, Maheesh Theekshana, Mukesh Chowdhary, Prashant Solanki, Simarjeet Singh, Tushar Deshpande and Matheesha Pathirana.
Available purse: ₹31.40 crore.
Delhi Capitals:
Released: Rilee Rossouw, Chetan Sakariya, Rovman Powell, Manish Pandey, Phil Salt, Mustafizur Rahman, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ripal Patel, Sarfaraz Khan, Aman Khan and Priyam Garg.
Retained: Rishabh Pant, David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Yash Dhull, Abishek Porel, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Mitchell Marsh, Pravin Dubey, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Kuldeep Yadav, Lungi Ngidi, Khaleel Ahmed, Ishant Sharma and Mukesh Kumar;
Available purse: ₹28.95 crore.
Gujarat Titans:
Released: Alzarri Joseph, Odean Smith, Dasun Shanaka, Yash Dayal, K.S. Bharat, Shivam Mavi, Urvil Patel and Pradeep Sangwan.
Retained: David Miller, Shubman Gill, Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Kane Williamson, Hardik Pandya, Abhinav Manohar, B. Sai Sudharsan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Mohammed Shami, Noor Ahmad, R. Sai Kishore, Rashid Khan, Joshua Little and Mohit Sharma.
Available purse: ₹13.85 crore.
Kolkata Knight Riders
Released: Tim Southee, Umesh Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Shardul Thakur, Mandeep Singh, Kulwant Khejroliya, N. Jagadeesan, David Wiese, Aarya Desai, Litton Das, Johnson Charles and Shakib Al Hasan.
Retained: Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Shreyas Iyer, Jason Roy, Anukul Roy, Andre Russel, Venkatesh Iyer, Suyash Sharma, Harshit Rana, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora and Varun Chakravarthy.
Available purse: ₹32.70 crore.
Lucknow Super Giants
Released: Daniel Sams, Karun Nair, Jaydev Unadkat, Manan Vohra, Karan Sharma, Suryansh Shedge, Swapnil Singh and Arpit Guleria.
Traded out : Romario Shepherd and Avesh Khan.
Retained: K.L. Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Deepak Hooda, K. Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kyle Mayers, Marcus Stoinis, Prerak Mankad, Yudhvir Singh, Mark Wood, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Yash Thakur, Amit Mishra and Naveen-ul-Haq.
Traded in: Devdutt Padikkal.
Available purse: ₹13.90 crore.
Mumbai Indians
Released: Arshad Khan, Ramandeep Singh, Hrithik Shokeen, Raghav Goyal, Jofra Archer, Tristan Stubbs, Duan Jansen, Jhye Richardson, Riley Meredith, Chris Jordan and Sandeep Warrier.
Retained: Rohit Sharma, Dewald Brevis, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Tim David, Vishnu Vinod, Arjun Tendulkar, Cameron Green, Shams Mulani, Nehal Wadhera, Jasprit Bumrah, Kumar Kartikeya, Piyush Chawla, Akash Madhwal and Jason Behrendorff.
Traded in: Romario Shepherd.
Available purse: ₹15.25 crore.
Punjab Kings
Released: Shahrukh Khan, Raj Bawa, Baltej Dhanda, Mohit Rathee and Bhanuka Rajapaksa.
Retained: Shikhar Dhawan, Jitesh Sharma, Jonny Bairstow, Prabhsimran Singh, Liam Livingstone, Atharva Taide, Rishi Dhawan, Sam Curran, Sikandar Raza, Shivam Singh, Harpreet Brar, Arshdeep Singh, Kagiso Rabada, Nathan Ellis, Rahul Chahar, Vidwath Kaverappa and Harpreet Bhatia.
Available purse: ₹29.10 crore.
Rajasthan Royals
Released: Joe Root, Abdul Basith, Jason Holder, Akash Vashisht, Kuldip Yadav, Obed McCoy, M. Ashwin, K.C. Cariappa and K.M. Asif.
Traded out: Devdutt Padikkal.
Retained: Sanju Samson, Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, R. Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen, Navdeep Saini, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal, Adam Zampa and Prasidh Krishna.
Traded in: Avesh Khan.
Available purse: ₹14.50 crore.
Sunrisers Hyderabad
Released: Harry Brook, Adil Rashid, Akeal Hosein, Karthik Tyagi, Vivrant Sharma and Samarth Vyas.
Traded out: Mayank Dagar.
Retained: Abdul Samad, Aiden Markram, Rahul Tripathi, Glenn Phillips, Mayank Agarwal, Heinrich Klaasen, Anmolpreet Singh, Upendra Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Abhishek Sharma, Marco Jansen, Washington Sundar, Sanvir Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Fazalhaq Farooqi, T. Natarajan, Umran Malik and Mayank Markande.
Traded in: Shahbaz Ahmed.
Available purse: ₹34 crore.
Royal Challengers Bangalore
Released: Wanindu Hasaranga, HarshalPatel, Josh Hazlewood, Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, David Willey, Wayne Parnell, Sonu Yadav, Avinash Singh, Siddharth Kaul, Kedar Jadhav.
Traded out: Shahbaz Ahmed.
Retained: Faf du Plessis, Rajat Patidar, Virat Kohli Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Glenn Maxwell, Mahipal Lomror Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Vyshak Vijaykumar.
Traded in: Mayank Dagar.
Available purse: ₹40.75 crore.

Verstappen clinches 19th win of F1 season

Associated Press
ABU DHABI

Max Verstappen's outstanding season ended with a win at the Abu Dhabi GP on Sunday, earning the F1 champion a record-extending 19th win of the campaign and 54th overall to move into third on the all-time list. He finished ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and George Russell of Mercedes.

The results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:27:02.624; 2. Leclerc (Ferrari) +17.993s; 3. Russell (Mercedes) +20.328; 4. Perez (Red Bull) +21.453; 5. Norris (Mclaren) +24.284; 6. Piastri (Mclaren) +31.487; 7. Alonso (Aston Martin) +39.512; 8. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) +43.088; 9. Hamilton (Mercedes) +44.424; 10. Stroll (Aston Martin) +55.632.
Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 575; 2. Perez 285; 3. Hamilton 234; 4. Alonso 206; 5. Leclerc 206. **Constructors:** 1. Red Bull 860; 2. Mercedes 409; 3. Ferrari 406; 4. Mclaren 302; 5. Aston Martin 280.

Sinner twice downs Djokovic; Italy in final

Agence France-Presse
MALAGA

Jannik Sinner beat World No. 1 Novak Djokovic twice in one day to send Italy into the Davis Cup final with a 2-1 win over Serbia on Saturday in Malaga.

Italy, which won the trophy for the first and only time in 1976, will face 28-time winner Australia on Sunday.

Sinner, who has now triumphed three times in four clashes across 11 days against Djokovic, crucially kept Italy in the tie by beating the 24-time Grand Slam winner 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 in the second singles rubber.

Sinner and Lorenzo Sonego then defeated Djokovic and Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3, 6-4 in the decisive doubles to clinch victory, after Kecmanovic had dispatched Lorenzo Musetti 6-7(9), 6-2, 6-1 in the opener.

World No. 4 Sinner was left with an uphill battle to save Italy as he faced Djokovic in the singles, with the 36-year-old in stellar form.

Sonego and Sinner. AFP

Sinner claimed arguably the biggest win of his career, becoming the first man to beat Djokovic in a singles match at the Davis Cup since Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro in 2011, ending a 21-match streak.

The results:
Semifinals: Italy 2 bt Serbia 1
[Lorenzo Musetti lost to Miomir Kecmanovic 6-7(7), 6-2, 6-1; Jannik Sinner bt Novak Djokovic 6-2, 2-6, 7-5; Jannik Sinner & Lorenzo Sonego bt Novak Djokovic & Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3, 6-3].

Garnacho shines as United beat Everton

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Manchester United rubbed salt into Everton wounds as Alejandro Garnacho's stunning overhead kick helped the Red Devils to a 3-0 win that left the Toffees still rooted in the Premier League relegation zone.

In another match, Ollie Watkins fired Aston Villa into fourth place as it came from behind to win 2-1 at Tottenham on a day the hosts paid tribute to former boss Terry Venables.

Unai Emery's side trailed to Giovani Lo Celso's goal in the first half. But Pau Torres equalised just before the break and Watkins' 12th goal in this term wrapped up an impressive result for revitalised Villa.

Ange Postecoglou's team stands fifth after a third successive defeat.

The results:
Premier League: Brentford 0 lost to Arsenal 1 (Havertz 89); Tottenham 1 (Celso 22) lost to Aston Villa 2 (Torres 45+7, Watkins 61).

Garnacho lifted his side with the overhead kick. AP

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 1 (Griezmann 64) bt Mallorca 0; Villarreal 3 (Morales 57,71 & 80) bt Osasuna 1 (Catena 78); Real Sociedad 2 (M. Dmitrović 3-og, U. Sadiq 22) bt Sevilla 1 (En-Nesyri 60)
Serie A: Milan 1 (Hernández 45+2-pen) bt Fiorentina 0; Cagliari 1 (Dossena 10) drew with Monza 1 (Maric 61); Empoli 3 (Caputo 4-pen, Fazzini 30, Kovalenko 86) lost to Sassuolo 4 (Pinamonti 12 Henrique 22, Berardi 66-pen & 90+2); Frosinone 2 (Soule 34, Monterisi 90+4) bt Genoa 1 (Malinovskyi 38).

BFC held by NorthEast United

ISL-10

Sports Bureau

Bengaluru FC's wait for its first away win of the 2023-24 Indian Super League season continued as it was held 1-1 by NorthEast United FC at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday.

Skipper Sunil Chhetri's penalty strike on 36 minutes was canceled out by an Aleksandar Jovanovic own goal in first-half added time. BFC is eighth in the table on six points while NorthEast is sixth on nine points.

The away side took the lead when Javi Hernandez was brought down in the area by goalie Mirshad Michu, and Chhetri converted from the spot. BFC conceded when M.S. Jithin, having found himself in space down the right flank, fired a cross that deflected off a hapless Jovanovic and evaded Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's outstretched arm.

The result: NorthEast United FC 1 (Jovanovic og-45+3) drew with Bengaluru FC 1 (Chhetri 36).

INBRIEF

Ujjwala, mascot for Khelo India Para Games 2023 unveiled

The Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur unveiled 'Ujjwala' - a sparrow, as the mascot for the Khelo India Para Games 2023, in the Capital on Sunday. The sparrow is a symbol and pride of Delhi. The mascot reminds us that strength comes in many forms and that the human spirit is unbreakable. The launch was attended by many prominent sportspersons, including Pramod Bhagat, Bhavina Patel, Avani Lekhara, Sumit Antil, Rani Rampal, Yogeshwar Dutt, Sarita Mor, and Akhil Kumar.

Satwik-Chirag duo bows out in the final of China Masters

India's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fell just short of earning their fourth Badminton World Tour title after a loss in the China Masters 2023 final on Sunday. They went down to home-favourites Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang. The champion Indian duo lost the first game 19-21, staged a remarkable rally to win the second game 21-18, and made another valiant attempt at a comeback after being down 1-8 before losing the title decider 19-21 in a one-hour, 11-minute battle.

Bagnaia retains MotoGP title as Martin crashes in Valencia

Italy's Francesco Bagnaia retained the MotoGP world crown after sole title rival Jorge Martin crashed in dramatic fashion in the Valencia MotoGP on Sunday. Bagnaia was leading at the time on his Ducati unaware that Martin had come to grief after his Ducati-Pramac clipped Marc Marquez's Honda.

Sachin downs Vishal comprehensively

Former World youth champion and Asian bronze medallist Sachin Siwach Junior recorded a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Vishal Kumar to begin his campaign in style in the National boxing championships at the SAI Indoor Hall in Shillong on Sunday. Three-time champion Varinder Singh claimed his second victory to reach the pre-quarterfinals.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY FIXTURES

Group A (at Bengaluru): Saurashtra vs. Tripura; Kerala vs. Odisha; Mumbai vs. Railways; Puducherry vs. Sikkim.
Group B (at Jaipur): Maharashtra vs. Vidarbha; Jharkhand vs. Meghalaya; Chhattisgarh vs. Hyderabad; Manipur vs. Services.
Group C (at Ahmedabad): Delhi vs. Karnataka; Bihar vs. J&K; Chandigarh vs. Haryana; Mizoram vs. Uttarakhand.
Group D (at Chandigarh): Andhra vs. Assam; Rajasthan vs. UP; Arunachal vs. Gujarat.
Group E (at Mumbai): Madhya Pradesh vs. Punjab; Bengal vs. Tamil Nadu; Baroda vs. Nagaland.

Championship moves towards business end

The semifinals, to be held in Chennai, will witness Punjab taking on Karnataka while Tamil Nadu will challenge defending champion Haryana

HOCKEY NATIONALS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

After nine days and 40 matches, including 36 group contests, and a good majority of them one-sided, the Hockey India 13th Senior National men's hockey championship has entered the last-four stage.

Shot in the arm

The inclusion of 31 players from the National core group in the Senior Nationals after a brief hiatus has been a shot in the arm for the sport.

Playing against the likes of India captain Harmanpreet Singh, forwards Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Abhishek, among others, would have done the young players a world of good.

The semifinals of the Nationals to be held here on Monday will witness Punjab taking on Karnataka, whereas Tamil Nadu will challenge the defending champion Haryana.

A special mention must be made of the host, Tamil Nadu. Placed in Group B, TN had it very easy, winning its matches against Arunachal and Assam.

Advancing: Tamil Nadu had overcome a tough challenge from Uttar Pradesh in the quarterfinals. M. VEDHAN

In the quarterfinals, it had a mountain to climb against Uttar Pradesh and the odds favoured the visitor. TN captain Joshua Benedict Wesley did the star turn, scoring a brace in TN's 3-2 victory. It was the never-say-die spirit that proved to be the key.

Punjab will be the odds-on favourite against Karnataka, which has played like a well-oiled machine.

Haryana met its match in Odisha in the last-eight clash. International Abhishek, however, bailed the team out by converting in 'sudden death'.

Tough opponent

In the semifinals, Haryana has an opponent which will fight till the end.

There is a view that to avoid lop-sided matches there must be a segregation of teams based on their past performances and putting in place a 'relegation and promotion' system. India head coach Craig Fulton acknowledged it when he told *The Hindu* that he had discussed it with Hockey India.

The introduction of video referral has been another highlight of the tournament. The 13th Senior Nationals, one hopes, will be the beginning of many such bright spots.

Sift Kaur Samra clinches prone gold

Sports Bureau

Sift Kaur Samra shot 627.3 to clinch the women's 50m rifle prone gold in the 66th National shooting championship at Tughlakabad.

In the 50m free pistol in Bhopal, Simranpreet Kaur Brar won the women's and junior gold medals with a score of 551.

The results: 25m sports pistol:
Junior men: 1. Shiva Narwal 590; 2. Mayank Choudhary 583; 3. Abhinav Choudhary 582.
Women: 50m free pistol: 1. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 551; 2. T.S. Divya 541; 3. Sainyam 540.
Junior: 1. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 551; 2. Sainyam 540; 3. Nancy Solanki 537.
50m rifle prone: 1. Sift Kaur Samra 627.3; 2. Shriyanka Sadangi 624.7; 3. Manini Kaushik 624.4; **Junior:** 1. Nischal 620.4; 2. Nupur Kumrawat 618.8; 3. Heena Goheii 618.0.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Unbeaten 182 by Shadab

Shahan Shadab's unbeaten 182 helped Hammonds CC defeat National United CC by 152 runs in the KSCA (Group I) under-14 inter-club cricket tournament.

In another match, Ishaan Karthik Pasupuleti's all-round effort (28 n.o. & 6/13) was instrumental in BUCC (1)'s humongous 332-run victory over Jawahar SC (2).

The scores:

Hammonds 329/3 in 50 overs (Abhinav Surya 43, Shahan Shadab 182 n.o., Aarav Panjanathan 47 n.o.) bt National United 177 in 41.1 overs (Suraj A. Bastalkar 58, Aarav Panjanathan 4/45).

BUCC (1) 417/5 in 50 overs (Yash Rajanna 72, Aditya Singh 95, Ryan Aaron Minj 136 n.o., Bharat P. Ujjni 44) bt Jawahar SC (2) 85 in 47.4 overs (Ishaan Karthik Pasupuleti 6/13).

Cambridge 203/8 in 50 overs (P.J. Likith Chengappa 56 n.o., J.S. Krishna Sreekar 63) lost to Jawahar SC (1) 204/4 in 43.3 overs (A.S. Sai Smaran 40, Krushik Krishna 73 n.o.).

Malleswaram Gymkhana 196 in 47.3 overs bt Eminent Cricketers 177 in 41.1 overs (S. Hemanth Gowda 81); Cavaliers 323/2 in 50 overs (Bryan Thomas 96, Anirudh M. Bangera 69, Diganth 75 n.o., Amogh Hegde 54 n.o.) bt Unique 105 in 33.3 overs.

Herons 249/5 in 50 overs (Anshuman Samal 152) bt FUCC (1) 187/9 in 42.4 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 59, Prathyush G. Shetty 5/44).

Engrades 192 in 48.4 overs (Nihal Malik 48) bt Canarese 104 in 48.4 overs; Coles 316/8 in 50 overs (Tanay Dalmia 158, Aarnav Ravindra Nayak 71) bt Palar, Kolar 146 in 36.5 overs.

Bharath 291/6 in 50 overs (Aniketh Kaushik Kundapur 110, Aadrith 83, Sujan Gunapal 43) lost to FUCC (2) 292/4 in 49 overs (Arnav Anil 111 n.o., Samar Modhe 58).

Sapphire 130 in 42.5 overs (Pratheet Jambagi 56) lost to Dooravani Cricketers (1) 131/3 in 16.1 overs (Mohammed Moin Mulla 42, A. Vishnu 66).

Yankees 270/7 in 50 overs (Vedant Sharma 46, Mohammed Umair 47, Sparsh Sankesara 68, S. Nikith Harsha 40 n.o.) bt Visweswarapuram (2) 171 in 31.2 overs (Gaurav Roshan Chawla 74); Vijaya 307/9 in 50 overs (P. Rithesh 76, Krish Singh Dhami 58, Om Agarwalla 59) bt Social Cricketers 122 in 36.2 overs.

Kolar beats Primrose

Kolar DHA edged out Primrose HC-A 3-2 in the KSHA-BHA B-division hockey league on Sunday. Also on the day, Bengaluru Blues HC thrashed Dhyanchand HC Tumkur 12-1.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Shrivalli downs Zeel to claim maiden title

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty won her maiden ITF Women's World Tour Tennis title with a hard-fought 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 victory over compatriot Zeel Desai on the clay courts at the Bowring Institute here on Sunday. The triumph will guarantee the 21-year-old from Hyderabad 50 WTA points and will bump her up significantly in the rankings, from 706 to a new career high.

On a crisp winter morning, Shrivalli breezed through the opening set as Desai had no answer to her power-packed game built on a huge first serve, a similarly lethal second serve and crushing groundstrokes. However, at the first-set changeover, Desai recalibrated her game and turned the tables. The 24-year-old from Ahmedabad broke Shrivalli in the opening game and edged the second set 6-4 after a see-saw battle.

In the third, Shrivalli regained her composure and established a 3-0 lead. Desai, who had won her quarterfinal and semifinal matches over three sets, would have hoped for one last comeback, but it was not to be. "I came into the event with zero expectations," Shrivalli said after the win. "I did a great job by just being myself. I practise on clay in Hyderabad and had good strategies with my coach [Vishal Uppal]. I implemented them very well."

Eye on the prize: Shrivalli's triumph will guarantee her 50 WTA points. K. MURALI KUMAR

Beauty Blaze should score in the main event

HYDERABAD: Four-year-old filly, Beauty Blaze, should score over her rivals in the Alaindair Plate, the main event of Monday's (Nov. 27) races here.

1 DIEGO RIVEIRA PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.10 p.m.: 1. Club Queen (2) R.S. Jodha 60.5, 2. Riffa (3) Mukesh Kumar 60.5, 3. Golden Inzio (5) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 60, 4. Urgent (1) Shivansh 60, 5. Crown Witness (7) P. Sai Kumar 59.5, 6. Creative Art (4) N.B. Kuldeep 59, 7. Magic Princess (9) Vivek G 59, 8. Blue Brigade (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56.5 and 9. It's My Life (8) Ajay Kumar 56.

1. URGENT, 2. IT'S MY LIFE, 3. GOLDEN INZIO

2 WINTER STAR PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.40: 1. China Town (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 61, 2. Princess Daka (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Role Model (1) R.S. Jodha 59, 4. Voice Of A Dream (8) A. Imran Khan 58, 5. Forever Bond (4) Surya Prakash 56.5, 6. Alpine Girl (2) Mohit Singh 55, 7. Muaser (3) G. Naresh 51.5 and 8. My Way Or Highway (7) B. Nikhil 50.

1. PRINCESS DAKA, 2. FOREVER BOND, 3. CHINA TOWN

3 DIEGO RIVEIRA PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 2.10: 1. Dali's Champion (5) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 60.5, 2. Inderdhanush (6) Shivansh 60.5, 3. My Master (8) Md. Ekram Alam 60.5, 4. Tortilla Chip (3) Mohit Singh 60.5, 5. Canterbury (1) Mukesh Kumar 59, 6. Flying Hooves (4) Santosh Raj 59, 7. Solar Princess (2) Deepak Singh 59 and 8. Ar Superior (7) P. Sai Kumar 50.

1. INDERDHANUSH, 2. TORTILLA CHIP, 3. CANTERBURY

4 BASHA PLATE (Div. I) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.45: 1. Bellaque (5) A. Imran Khan 62, 2. Only The Brave (7) Santosh Raj 61.5, 3. Coming Home (8) Likith Appu 61, 4. Sangreal (12) P. Sai Kumar 60.5, 5. Subha (1) Md. Ekram Alam 60, 6. Thunder Knight (11) Kiran Naidu 59, 7. The Hambone (14) Vivek G 58, 8. Silver Lining (6) S. Saqlain 56.5, 9. Warwick (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 10. Char Ek Char (4) Surya Prakash 55, 11. American Flame (13) G. Naresh 54.5, 12. Great Combo (2) R.S. Jodha 53.5, 13. Chenab (9) Abhay Singh 52.5 and 14. Shazia (10) B. Nikhil 50.5.

1. SILVER LINING, 2. SANGREAL, 3. SUBHA

5 NOVEMBER QUEEN PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45, 3.15: 1. D Yes Boss (12) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Salisbury (5) A. Imran Khan 59.5, 3. Delhi Heights (8) B. Nikhil 57.5, 4. Indian Temple (3) P. Sai Kumar 57.5, 5. Royal Star (6) Afroz Khan 57.5, 6. Creative Force (10) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 57, 7. Fatuma (7) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 56.5, 8. Advance Guard (1) Surya Prakash 56, 9. Royal Pal (2) R.S. Jodha 55, 10. Exponent (4) Abhay Singh 54.5, 11. Sucker Punch (11) G. Naresh 54 and 12. Cash Register (9) Likith Appu 52.

1. CREATIVE FORCE, 2. DELHI HEIGHTS, 3. SALISBURY

6 BLACK JACK PLATE (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65, 3.45: 1. Maximum Glamour (10) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. N R I Sport (4) Vivek G 59.5, 3. Wallop And Gallop (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 4. Angelita (1) Ajay Kumar 58, 5. Doe A Deer (7) S. Saqlain 54.5, 6. Sopranos (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 7. Tripurari (3) B. Nikhil 53, 8. Star Racer (5) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 52.5, 9. Cabello (9) P. Sai Kumar 50.5 and 10. Plethora (8) Md. Ekram Alam 50.5.

1. MAXIMUM GLAMOUR, 2. SOPRANOS, 3. DOE A DEER

7 ALAINDAIR PLATE (1,200m), rated 60 and above, 4.15: 1. Soloist (5) Shivansh 63, 2. Black Onyx (10) B. Nikhil 62.5, 3. Watch My Stride (8) Abhay Singh 61.5, 4. Kingston (6) R.S. Jodha 61, 5. City Of Bliss (1) Mukesh Kumar 59, 6. Malaala (12) Ajay Kumar 59, 7. Beauty Blaze (9) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 8. Briar Ridge (7) Santosh Raj 57.5, 9. Blissful (4) Md. Ekram Alam 54, 10. Amyra (2) Mohit Singh 53.5, 11. Carlisle (11) S. Saqlain 51.5, 12. Red Snaper (13) Afroz Khan 50.5, 13. See My Spark (14) Vivek G 50.5 and 14. Miss Little Angel (3) Likith Appu 50.

1. BEAUTY BLAZE, 2. SOLOIST, 3. MALAALA

8 BASHA PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 4.45: 1. Milton Keynes (13) Mukesh Kumar 61, 2. Sweet Dancer (14) P. Ajeeth Kumar 61, 3. Burgundy Black (1) B. Nikhil 60.5, 4. Magnum (7) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 60, 5. Pontefract (11) Afroz Khan 59, 6. Blast In Class (12) Ajay Kumar 57.5, 7. Calista Girl (5) Shivansh 56.5, 8. Precious Gift (4) Santosh Raj 55.5, 9. Ben Hur (9) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 10. Spectacular Cruise (8) Likith Appu 54.5, 11. Dali's Destiny (6) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 12. Antidote (10) Abhay Singh 53, 13. Eminency (2) Surya Prakash 52.5 and 14. Jet Falcon (3) G. Naresh 50.

1. MAGNUM, 2. SWEET DANCER, 3. PONTEFRACT

Day's Best: **SILVER LINING**
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Treble (i): 1, 2 & 3, (ii): 3, 4 & 5, (iii): 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala: All races.

Livermore claims the Golconda 1000 Guineas

HYDERABAD: Trainer L. D'Silva's Livermore, ridden by S. Saqlain, won the Golconda 1000 Guineas, the main attraction of the opening day's races here on Sunday (Nov. 26). The winner is owned by Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy.

Trainer L. D'Silva stole the limelight by saddling four winners of the day. Jockey Saqlain had confidently kept Livermore in third position till the bend, later this daughter of Speaking Of Which-Sherman Oaks travelled very well on the outside to fight out a strong battle with West Brook and won the race by a 3/4 length.

THE RESULTS:

1. WINDSCALE PLATE: GLORIOUS POWER (Afroz Khan) 1, Bellingham (Suraj Narredu) 2, Cannon Rose (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and White Pearl (Akshay Kumar) 4. 9, 8-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m 14. 62s. ₹33 (w), 20 and 16 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 41, SHW: 28 and 14, FP: 93, Q: 49, Tanala: 481. Favourite: Bellingham. Owners: Mr. L.D' Silva & Mr. Vazhaparmbil John Joseph. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

2. SHRAVAN KUMAR MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II): **PROUD MARY** (P. Trevor) 1, Kenna (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, Colt Pistol (Abhay Singh) 3 and Divine Connection (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 4, 2 and 1-1/2. 1m 12. 92s. ₹17 (w), 14, 16 and 29 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 122, SHW: 13 and 15, FP: 107, Q: 70, Tanala: 1,227. Favourite: Proud Mary. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

3. ROYAL TERN PLATE: SHADOW OF THE MOON (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Indian Sniper (Ajay Kumar) 2, Mandela (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Terenga (Antony Raj) 4. 3, Neck and 1-1/2. 1m 53.79s. ₹28 (w), 11, 16 and 10 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 38, SHW: 16 and 33, FP: 88, Q: 58, Tanala: 431. Favourite: Terenga. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

4. MANCHERIAL PLATE (Div. I): **CAPRIATI** (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Bold Beauty (Santosh Raj) 2, D Right Time (Vivek G) 3 and Caraxes (Afroz Khan) 4. Neck, 2-1/2 and Head. 1m 28. 81s. ₹18 (w), 14, 42 and 22 (p). SHP: 215, THP: 66, SHW: 21 and 171, FP: 1,228, Q: 541, Tanala: 7,897. Favourite: Capriati. Owner & Trainer: Mr. K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

5. SHRAVAN KUMAR MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I): **MALIBU** (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Alexina (Ajay Kumar) 2, Happy Go Lucky (Vivek G) 3 and Barbet (P. Trevor) 4. Neck, 3-1/2 and Shd. 1m 12. 81s. ₹154 (w), 27, 39 and 24 (p). SHP: 125, THP: 55, SHW: 38 and 65, FP: 4,090, Q: 3,425, Tanala: 79,205. Favourite: Commanding Knight. Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

6. PRINCE OF BERAR TROPHY: ASHWA MOROCCO (Ajay Kumar) 1, Huntingdon (S. Saqlain) 2, Brilliant Star (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Best Buddy (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 1, 1-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m 25. 98s. ₹37 (w), 12, 19 and 20 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 60, SHW: 18 and 32, FP: 143, Q: 103, Tanala: 688. Favourite: High Command. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

7. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (Gr. 2): **LIVERMORE** (Speaking Of Which-Sherman Oaks) (S. Saqlain) 1, West Brook (Western Aristocrat-Sugar Bay) (Akshay Kumar) 2, La Belle (Excellent Art-Goldilocks) (P. Trevor) 3 and N R I Doublepower (Gusto-Sparkling Crystal) Afroz Khan 4. 3/4, 4-3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m 39. 80s. ₹27 (w), 13, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 48, SHW: 19 and 16, FP: 68, Q: 31, Tanala: 219. Favourite: West Brook. Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

8. MANCHERIAL PLATE (Div. II): **BROOKLYN BEAUTY** (Mohit Singh) 1, Australia (Deepak Singh) 2, Das (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 3 and Rochelle (Santosh Raj) 4. 3, 1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m 27. 68s. ₹47 (w), 18, 16 and 18 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 45, SHW: 31 and 38, FP: 252, Q: 154, Tanala: 1,277. Favourite: Precious. Owner: Mr. Md. Kashif Khan. Trainer: N. Rawal.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹72,785 (5 tkts.), 30%: 7,089 (22 tkts.).

Treble (i): 300 (129 tkts.), (ii): 2,580 (12 tkts.), (iii): 916 (104 tkts.). Mini jackpot: (i) 8,502 (8 tkts.), (ii) 43,850 (2 tkts.).

Gokulam salvages a draw against Churchill

I-LEAGUE

M.R. Praveen Chandran
KOZHIKODE

Gokulam Kerala FC salvaged a draw against Churchill Brothers FC on a night that saw its goalkeeper Devansh Dabas' comeback turn sour on Sunday.

Devansh, who missed the previous match due to suspension, endured a harrowing day under the post and gifted Churchill Brothers a goal in the first half. He fumbled and allowed an innocuous freekick from Martin Chavaz to slip out. The lurking Richard Costa booted in the loose ball in the 37th minute.

Gokulam was lacklustre against a committed Churchill side in the first half which was played under a steady drizzle.

In the 70th, Alex Sanchez's shot hit defender Biaka's hand and referee Suresh Devaraj awarded a penalty. Sanchez whipped the ball in to score the equaliser in the 72nd.

The result: Gokulam Kerala FC (Alex Sanchez 72-pen) drew with Churchill Brothers FC 1 (Richard Costa 37).

At Sri Bhaini Sahib (Punjab): Namdhari 0 lost to Sreenidi Deccan 2 (David Castaneda, Jagdeep Singh).

Ojas and Aditi on top in compound qualification

NATIONAL ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

World champions Ojas Deotale and Aditi Swami emerged as the top men and women archers in the compound qualification round of the National archery championships at Ayodhya on Sunday. Top 25 male archers breached the 700 mark.

The results: Compound: Qualification round:

Men: 1. Ojas (Mah) 713, 2. Prathamesh Fuge (Mah) 713, 3. Priyansh (Del) 712, 4. Prathamesh Jawkar (Mah) 710, 5. Kunderu Venkatadri (AP) 709, 6. Rajat Chauhan (AIP) 708, 7. Chirag Vidyarthi (MP) 708, 8. Abhishek Verma (Del) 707, 9. Rishabh Yadav (Har) 706, 10. Hritik Sharma (JK) 706.

Women: 1. Aditi (Mah) 709, 2. Taniparthi Chikitha (Tel) 705, 3. Sakshi Chaudhary (UP) 700, 4. Parneet Kaur (Pun) 699, 5. Avneet Kaur (Pun) 699, 6. Purvasha Shende (Mah) 698, 7. Srishti Singh (MP) 697, 8. Priya Gurjar (Raj) 696, 9. Akshita (Del) 694, 10. Pragati (Del) 694.